

KIAW

THE CYCLE
RENEWED

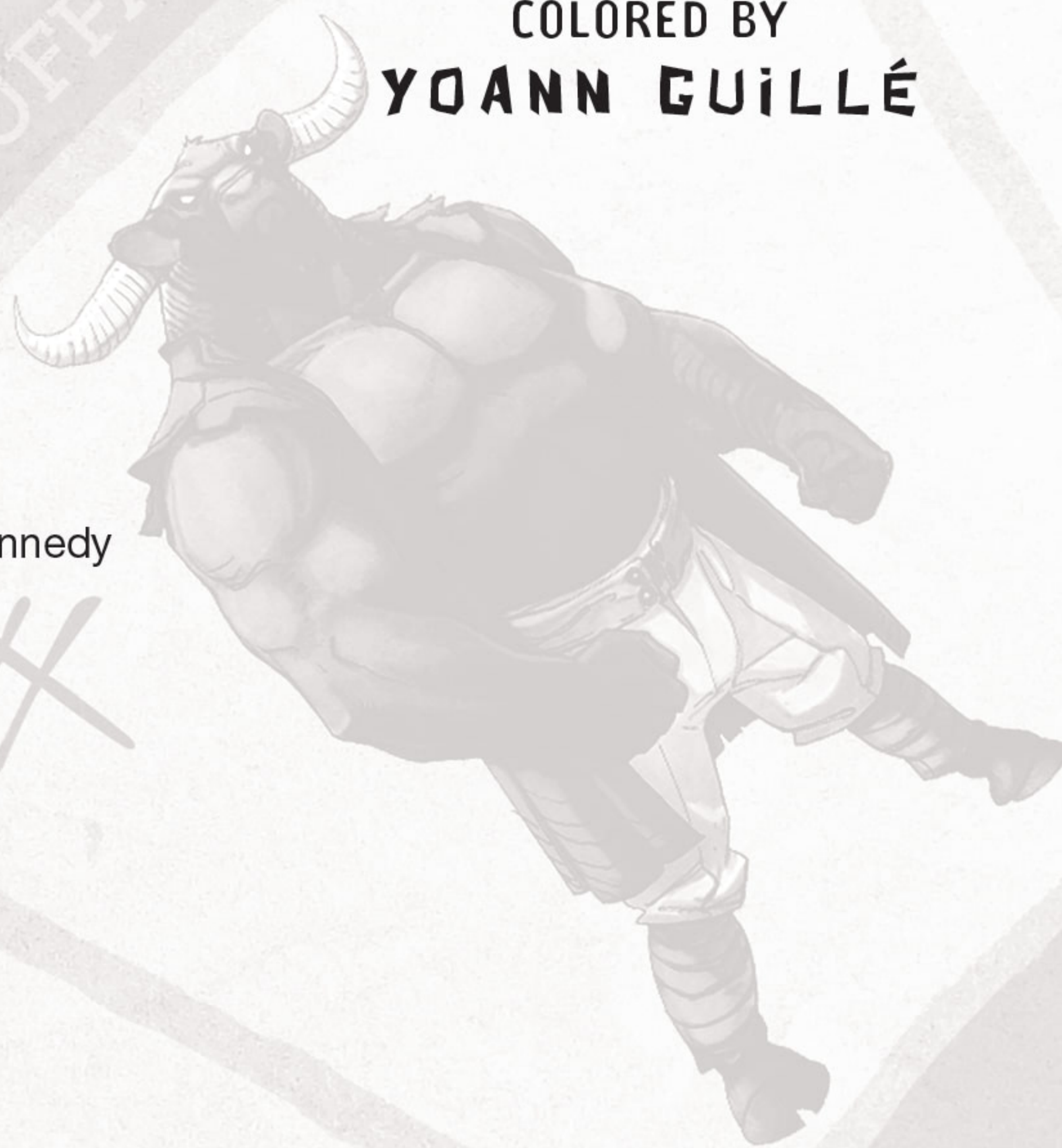
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THE CYCLE
RENEWED

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THE DIZHI LAWS:

- 1) A DIZHI IS A HUMAN HOST CONTAINING ONE OF THE TWENTY-FOUR ANCIENT ANIMAL SPIRITS, CALLED TOTEMS. THERE ARE TWO GROUPS OF TOTEMS: THE TWELVE ZODIAC TOTEMS AND THE TWELVE FORGOTTEN TOTEMS. THESE TOTEMS ARE AGELESS AND, LIKE ENERGY, CAN NEITHER BE CREATED NOR DESTROYED.
- 2) EACH TOTEM HAS UNIQUE POWERS AND ABILITIES WHICH THEIR HUMAN HOST CAN ACCESS BY TRANSFORMING OR PARTIALLY-TRANSFORMING INTO A HYBRID WERE-STATE RESEMBLING THAT TOTEM'S ANIMAL.
- 3) EACH TOTEM CAN BOND WITH TWO SEPARATE HOSTS, REFERRED TO AS BINOMIALS OR HOST PARTNERS. THE TOTEM CAN ONLY POSSESS ONE OF THESE TWO HOSTS AT A TIME, HOWEVER, AND WILL MOST OFTEN CHOOSE THE ONE WITH THE GREATEST IMMEDIATE NEED.
- 4) A TOTEM CAN BE FORCEFULLY SEPARATED FROM ONE OF ITS HOSTS BY ANOTHER DIZHI, USUALLY AT THE COST OF THE HOST'S LIFE. IN MOST CASES, THE FREED TOTEM WILL BE RE-ABSORBED OR "STOLEN" BY THE DIZHI WHO DEFEATED IT. IN SOME CASES, A TOTEM CAN BE IMPRISONED WITHIN AN OBJECT OR VESSEL WITHOUT A HOST.
- 5) A DIZHI CAN POSSESS MORE THAN ONE TOTEM AT ONCE. THIS CAN ALLOW FOR A UNIQUE COMBINATION OF POWERS AND VISUAL TRANSFORMATION COMBINATIONS. CONTAINING MORE THAN ONE TOTEM TENDS TO DRIVE THE HOST INTO AN ADDICTION-LIKE HUNGER TO ABSORB MORE TOTEMS.
- 6) TO DATE, THE MOST TOTEMS SAFELY CONTAINED BY A SINGLE DIZHI IS FIVE.

THE STORY SO FAR:

ANGEL TOMASSINI WAS AN AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOLER WHEN HE FIRST DISCOVERED THE HIDDEN WORLD OF THE DIZHIS. AS THE SON OF A WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN (AND NOTORIOUS MAFIA CRIME LORD), HIS EYES WERE OPENED TO THIS EXCITING AND DANGEROUS REALM BY HIS FRIEND AND BODYGUARD, DAN, WHO CARRIED THE TIGER TOTEM IN SECRET UNTIL ANGEL WAS READY TO ACCEPT HIS FATE AS A DIZHI.

HE SOON BECAME WRAPPED UP IN AN AGELESS CONFLICT BETWEEN POWERFUL DIZHIS WITH INDIVIDUAL -- AND OFTEN NEFARIOUS -- AGENDAS, A "WERE-WAR" WITH THE SUBJUGATION OF HUMANITY AS ITS ULTIMATE GOAL.

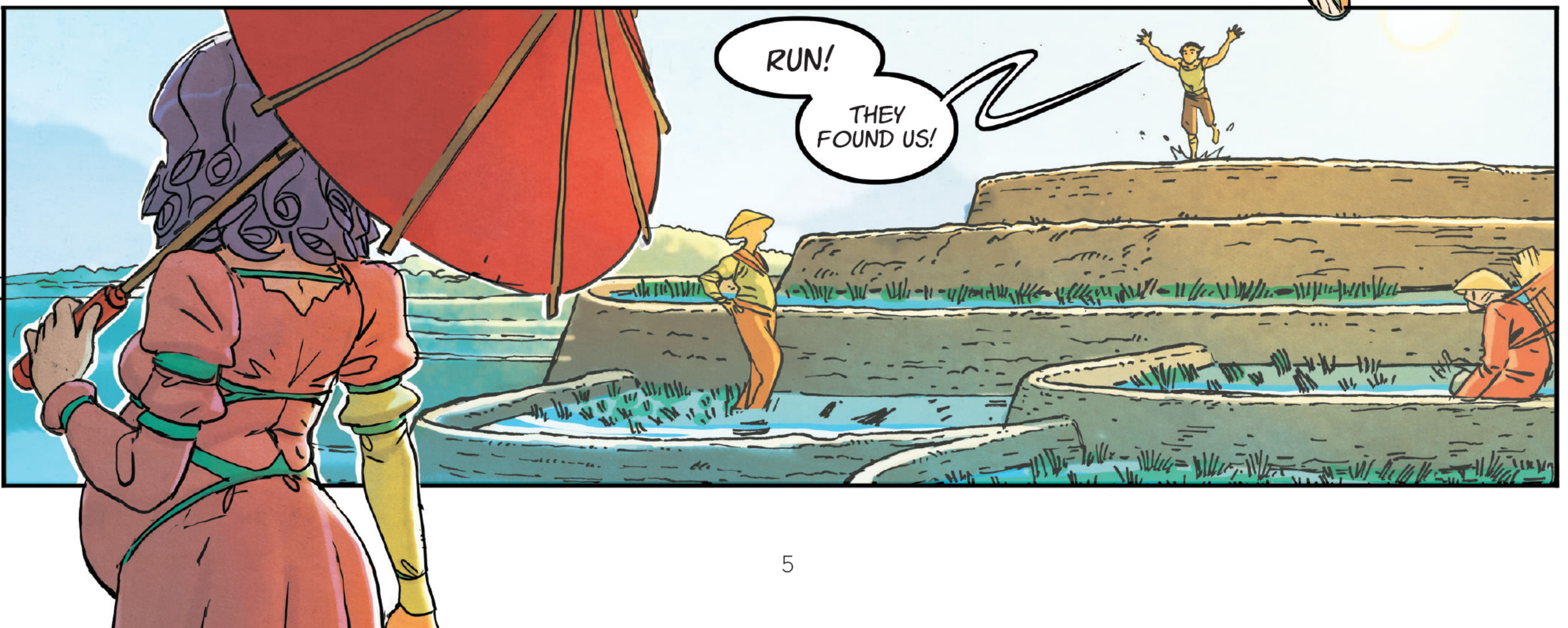
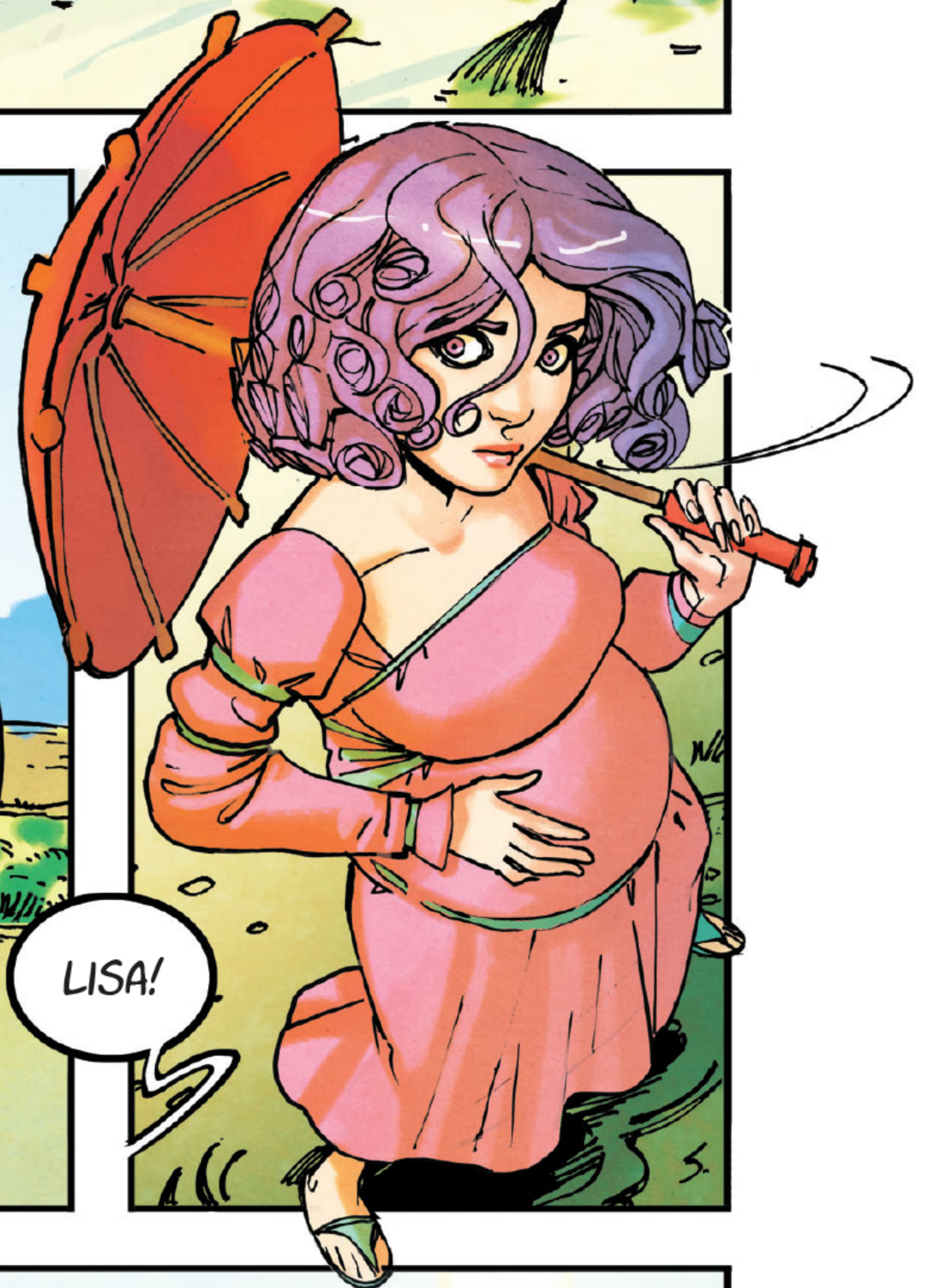
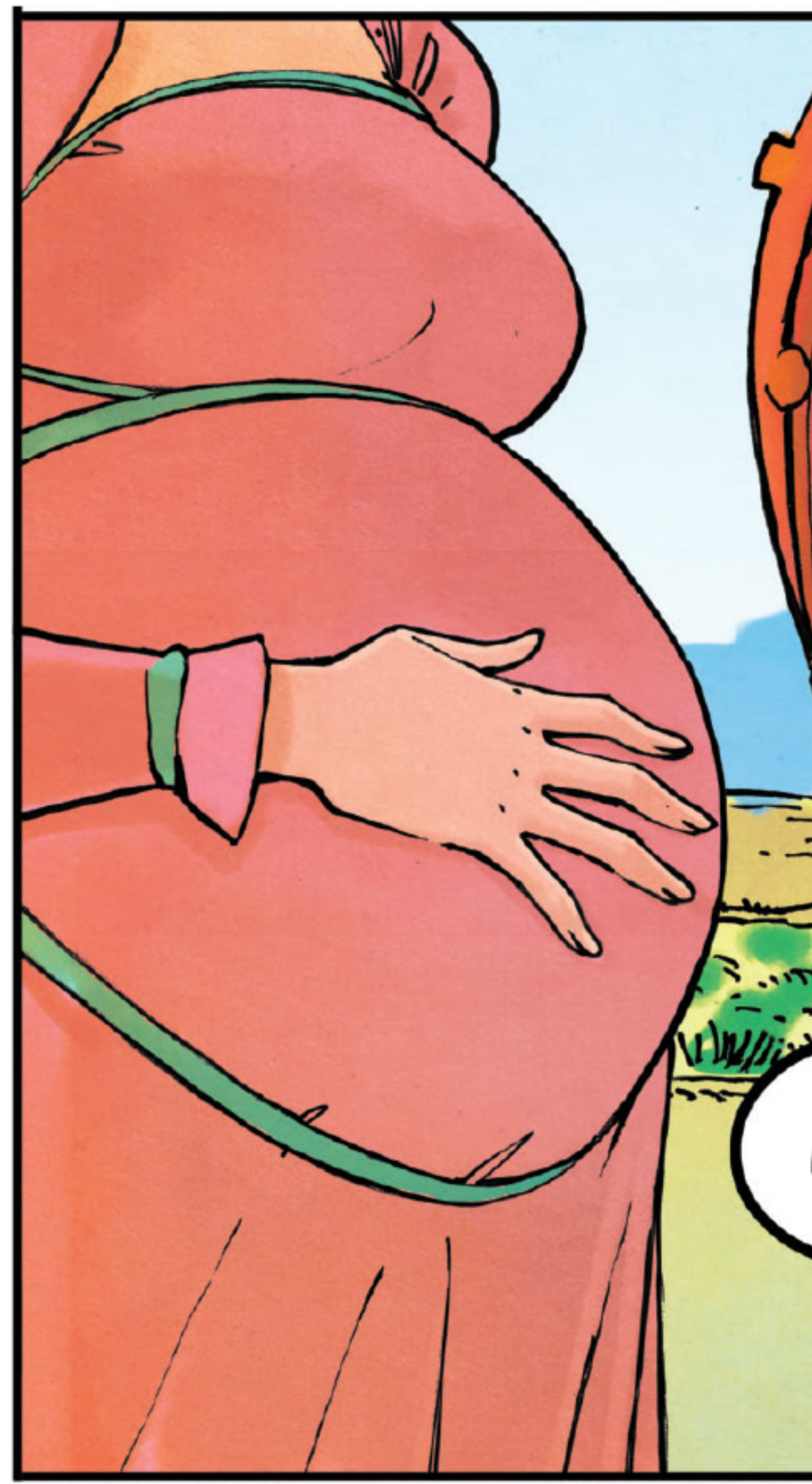
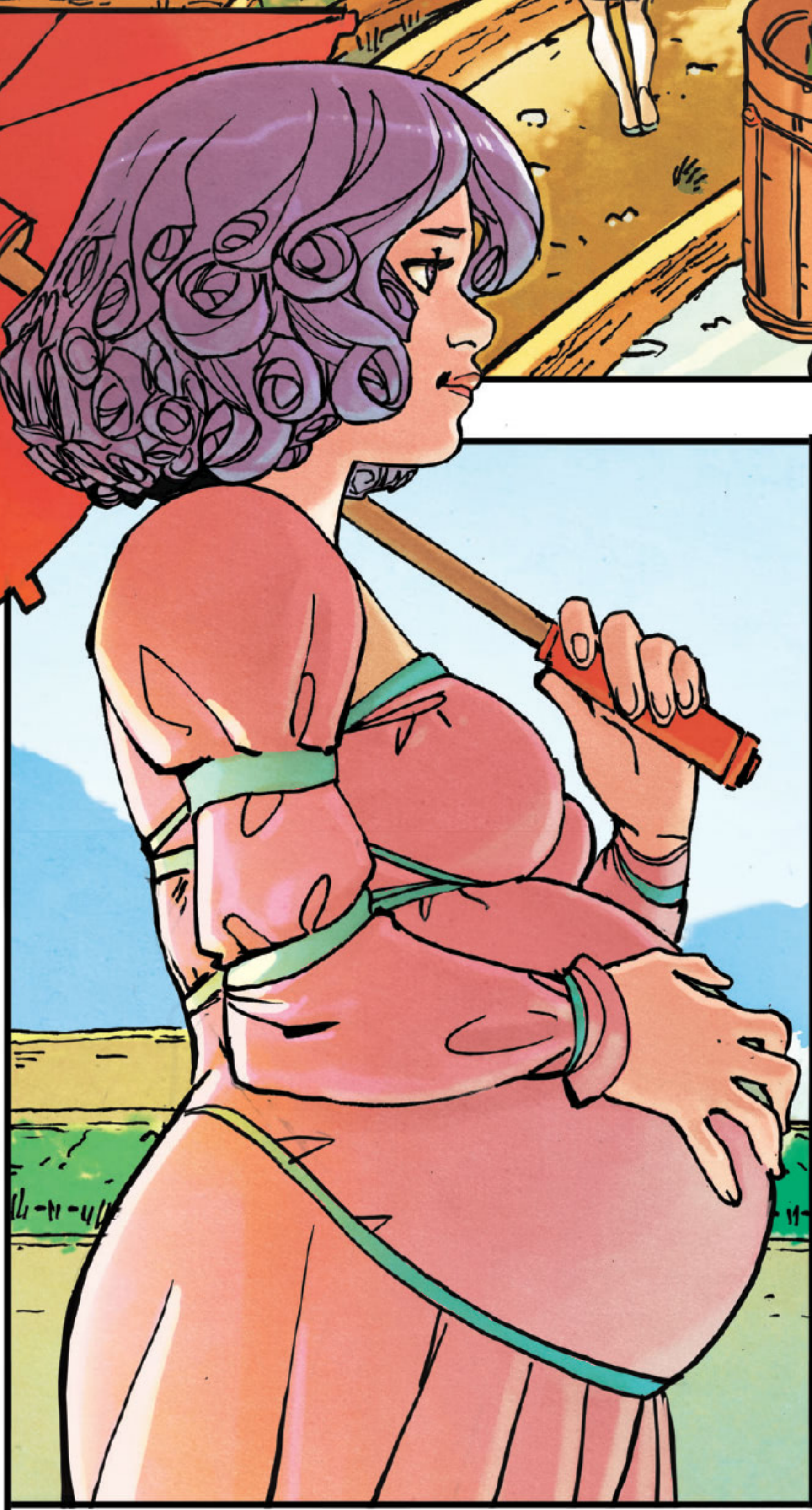
AFTER EXTRICATING HIMSELF FROM HIS FATHER'S CRIMINAL LEGACY, HE TOOK TO HIDING, TRAVELING THE GLOBE IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND ANSWERS WHILE AVOIDING DETECTION BY OTHER HOSTILE DIZHIS AND A ZEALOUS FEDERAL AGENT NAMED OSWALD JONES. RUNNING PROVED FUTILE, HOWEVER, AS THE ZODIAC DIZHIS HAD MANY WAYS OF TRACKING DOWN OTHER TOTEM CARRIERS. IN THE COURSE OF HIS ADVENTURES, ANGEL ABSORBED ADDITIONAL TOTEMS, INCLUDING THE GOAT, THE HORSE, AND THE RABBIT, WHICH INTRODUCED NEW AND UNIQUE COMBINATIONS OF POWERS AND FORMS, AS WELL AS THE DANGEROUS PHYSICAL ADDICTION THAT CAN COME FROM HOSTING NUMEROUS TOTEMS AT ONCE. HE MANAGED TO SURVIVE THIS PAINFUL LESSON BY FINDING A GROUP OF TRUSTWORTHY ALLIES WITH WHOM HE VOLUNTARILY SHARED THESE TOTEMS, MENTORING THEM IN THE RULES OF BEING A DIZHI.

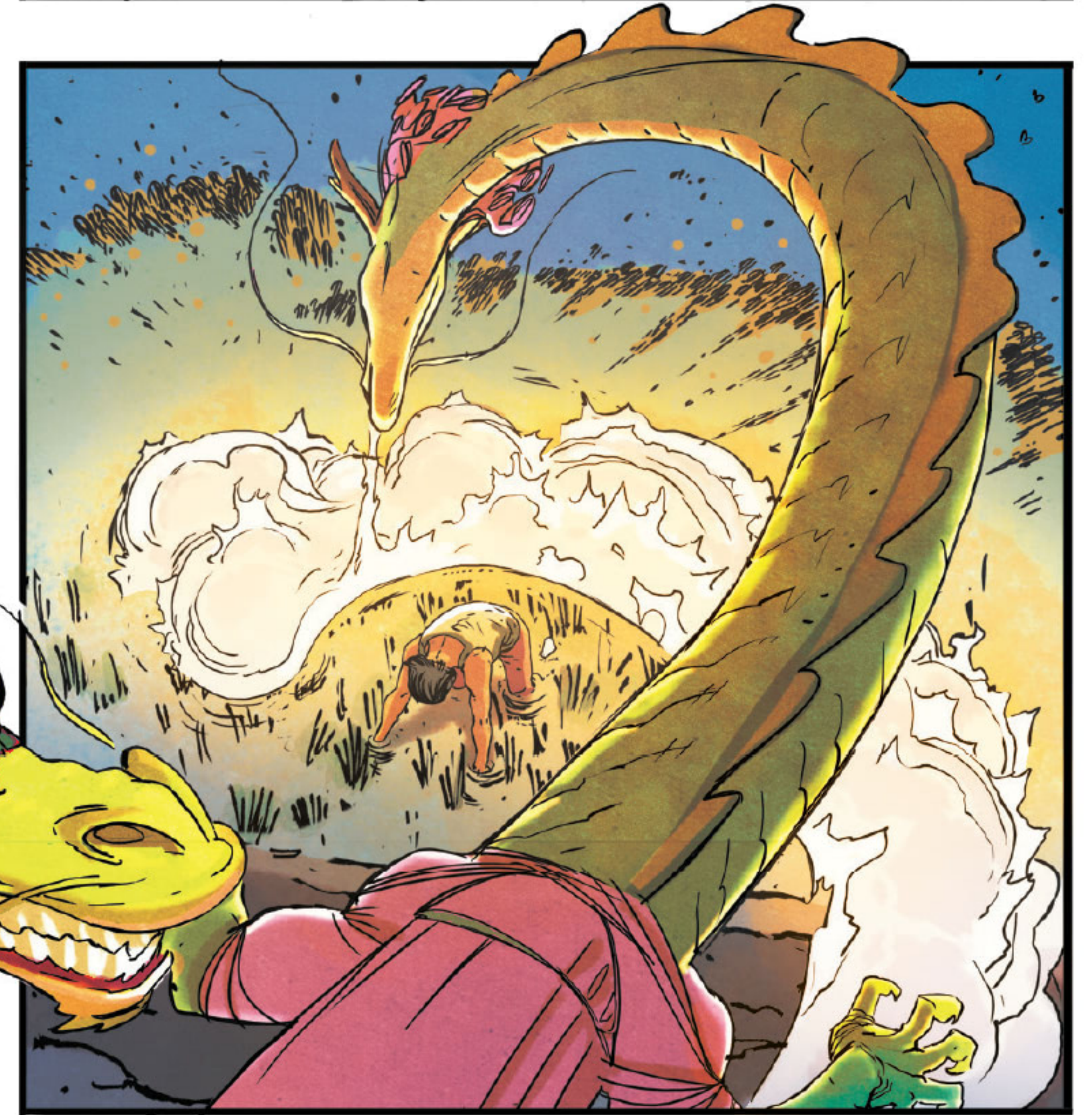
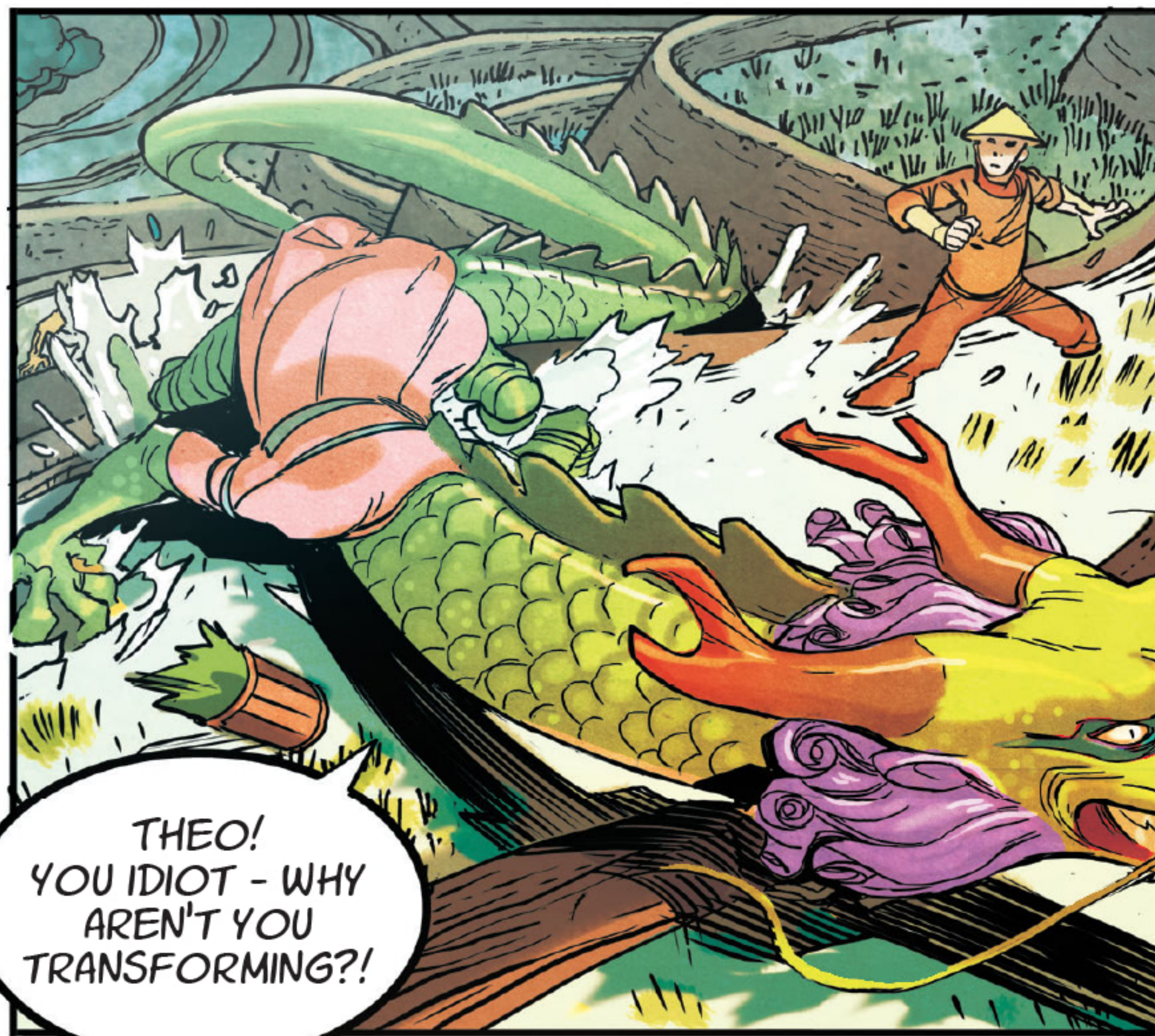
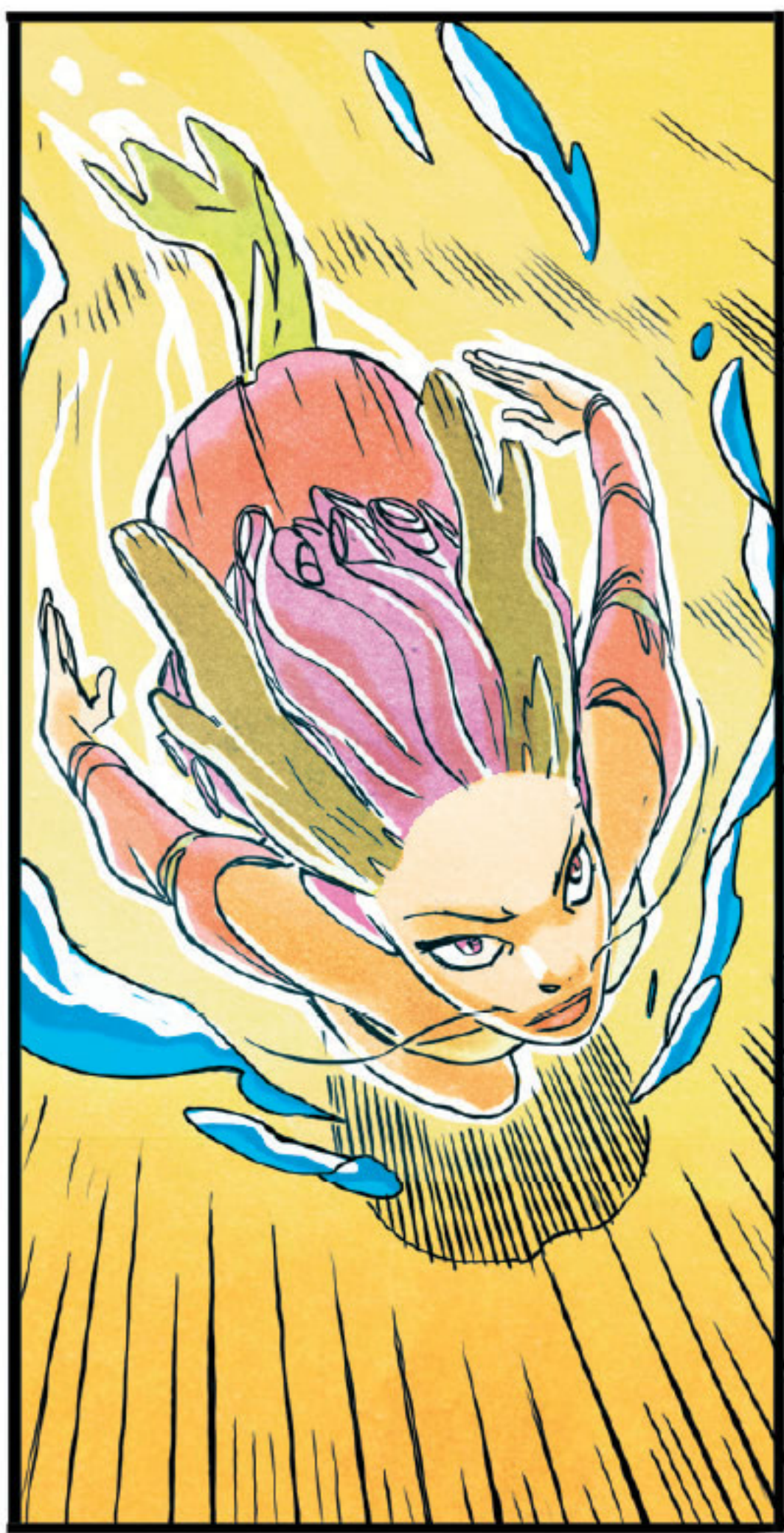
THIS TEAM OF FLEDGLING HEROES FACED THEIR FIRST SIGNIFICANT THREAT WHEN A NEW GROUP OF UNKNOWN DIZHIS -- THE FORGOTTEN TWELVE, LED BY THE CAT -- EMERGED FROM HIDING WITH THEIR FOCUS ON COLLECTING ALL OF THE TOTEMS FOR THEMSELVES.

NOW, GUIDED BY A PSYCHIC NAMED SHAAZ, THESE YOUNG DIZHIS FIND THEMSELVES BOTH HUNTER AND HUNTED, CONSTANTLY ON THEIR TOES WITH THE FATE OF THE WORLD AT STAKE. BUT KNOWING WHO CAN AND CAN'T BE TRUSTED IS THE MOST DIFFICULT TASK...

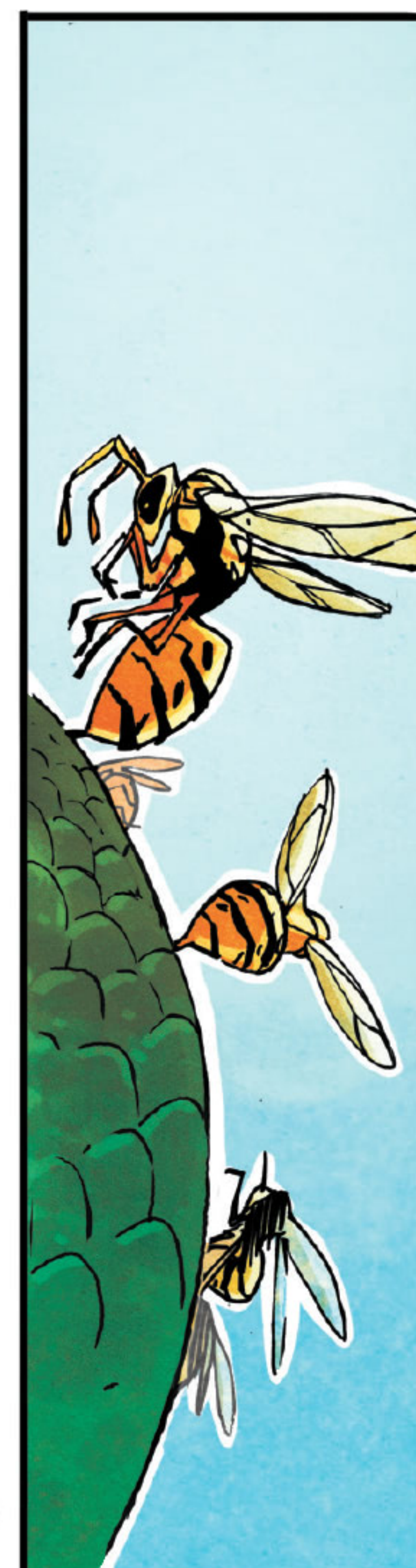


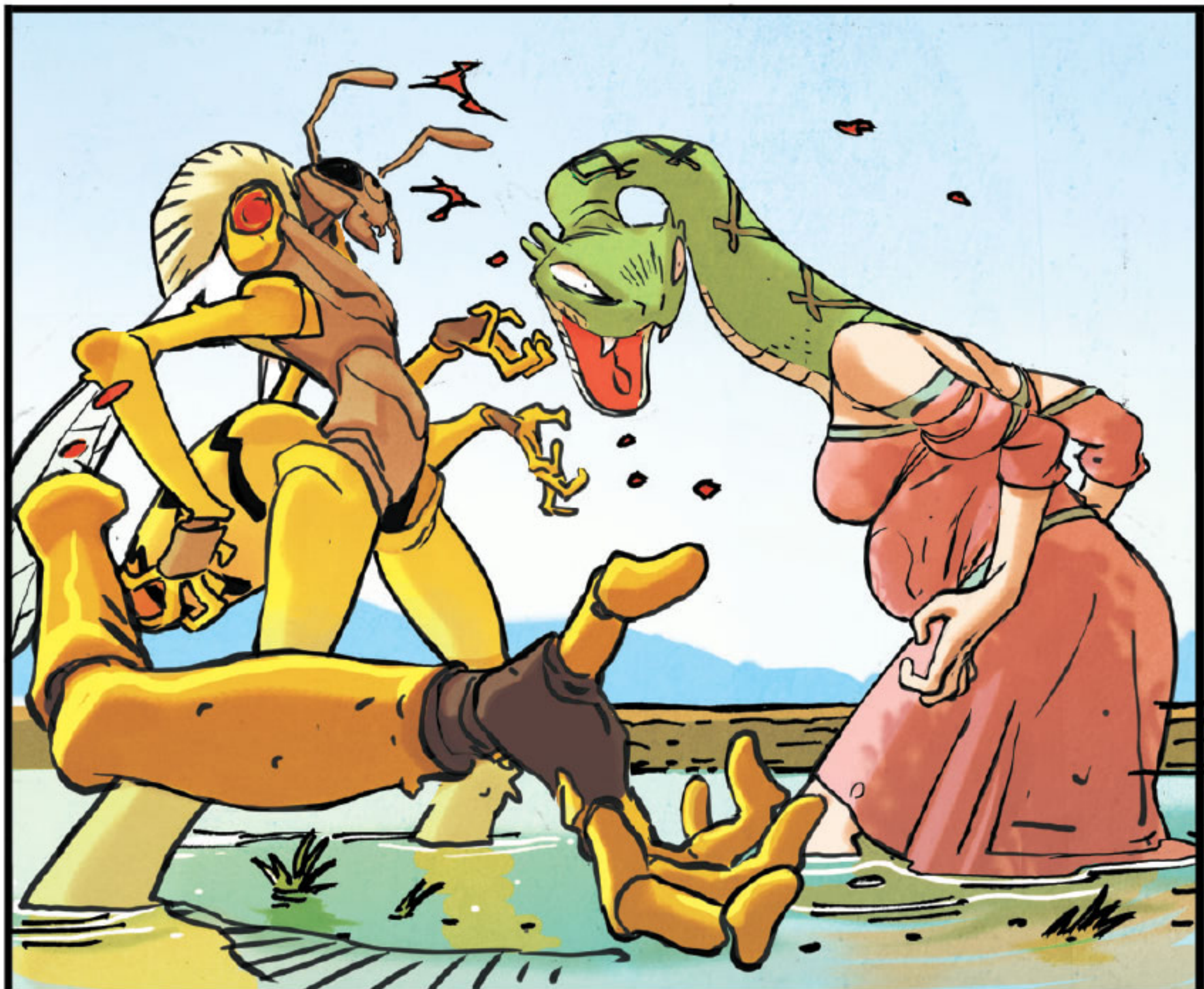
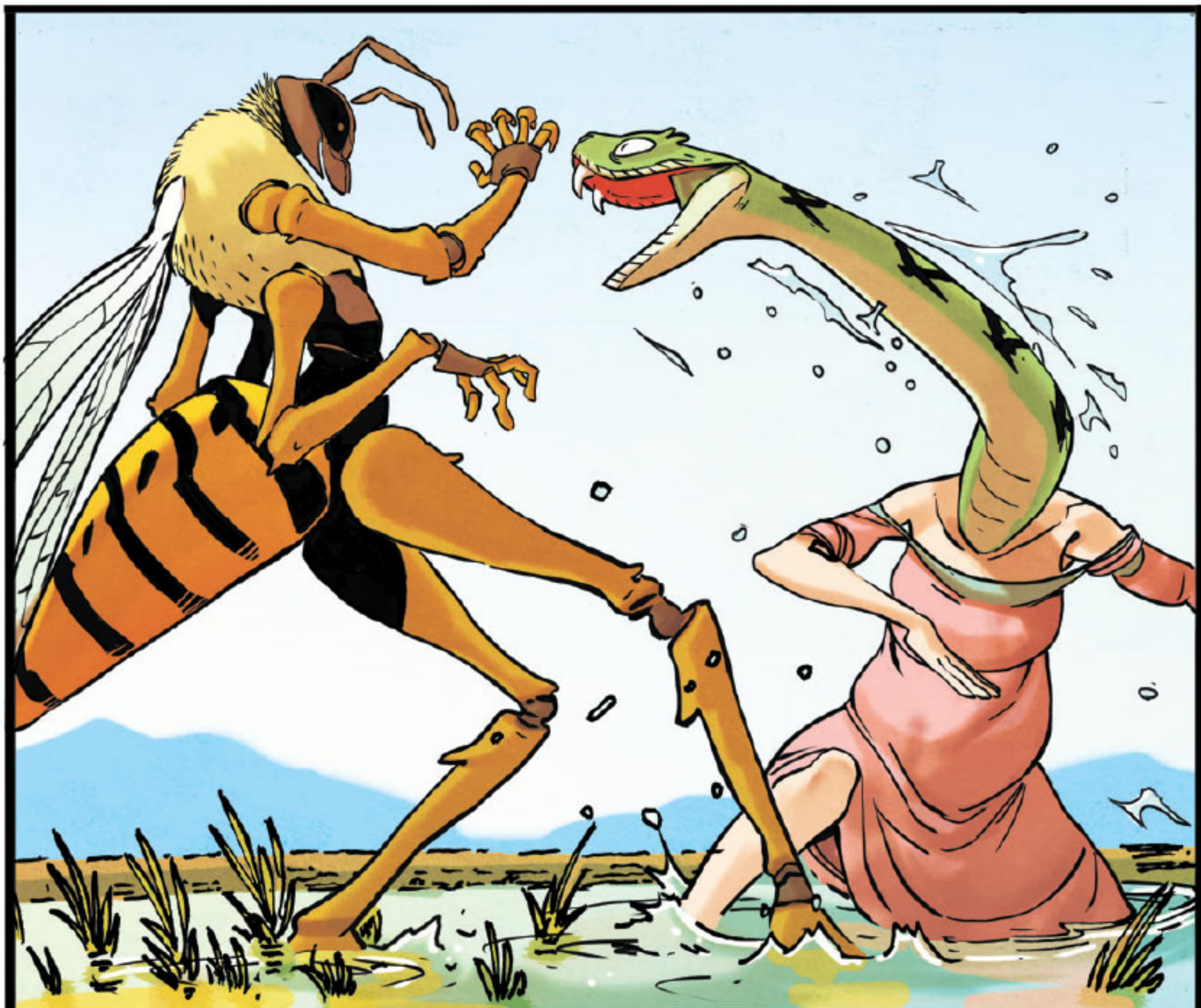
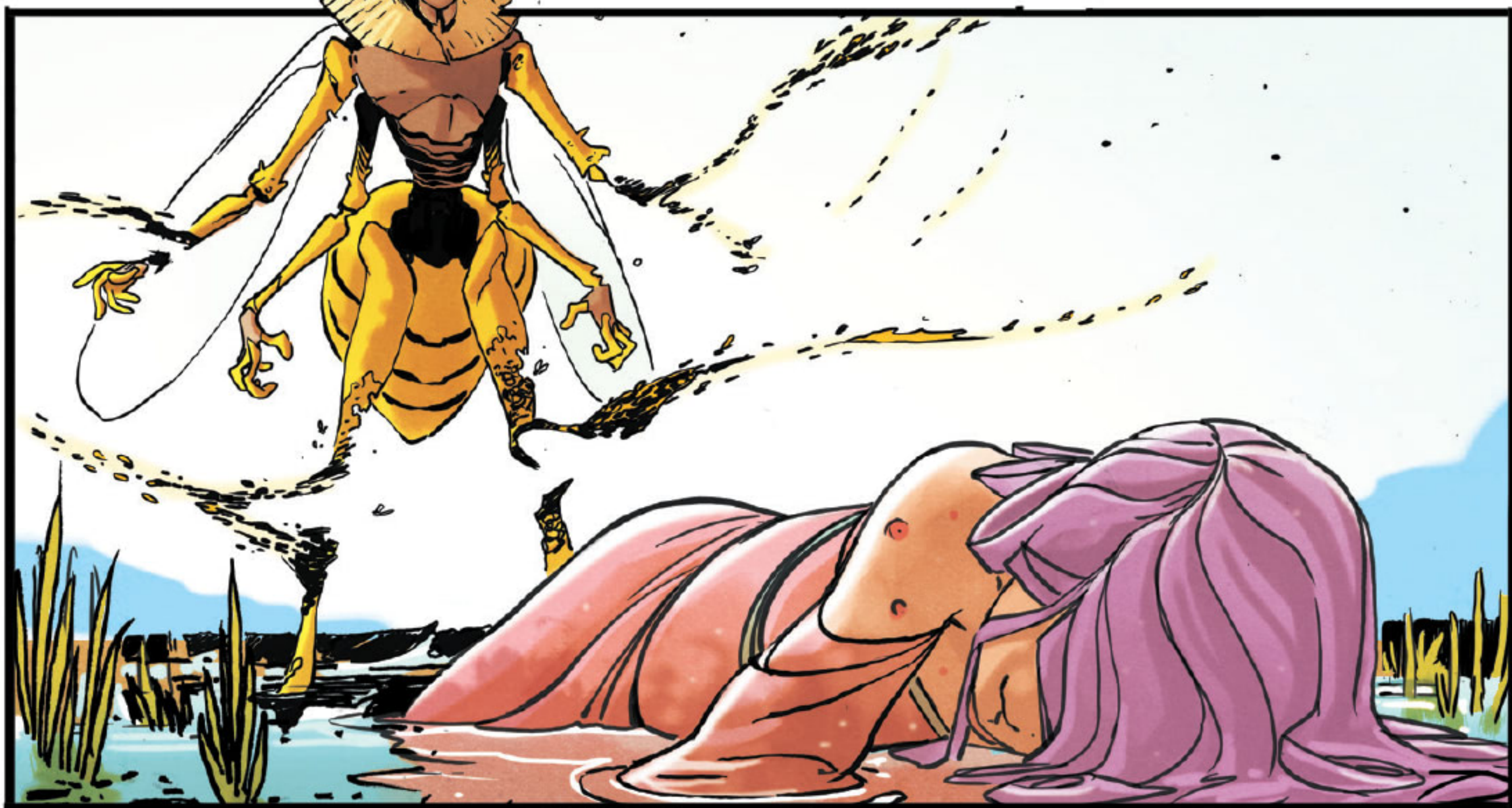
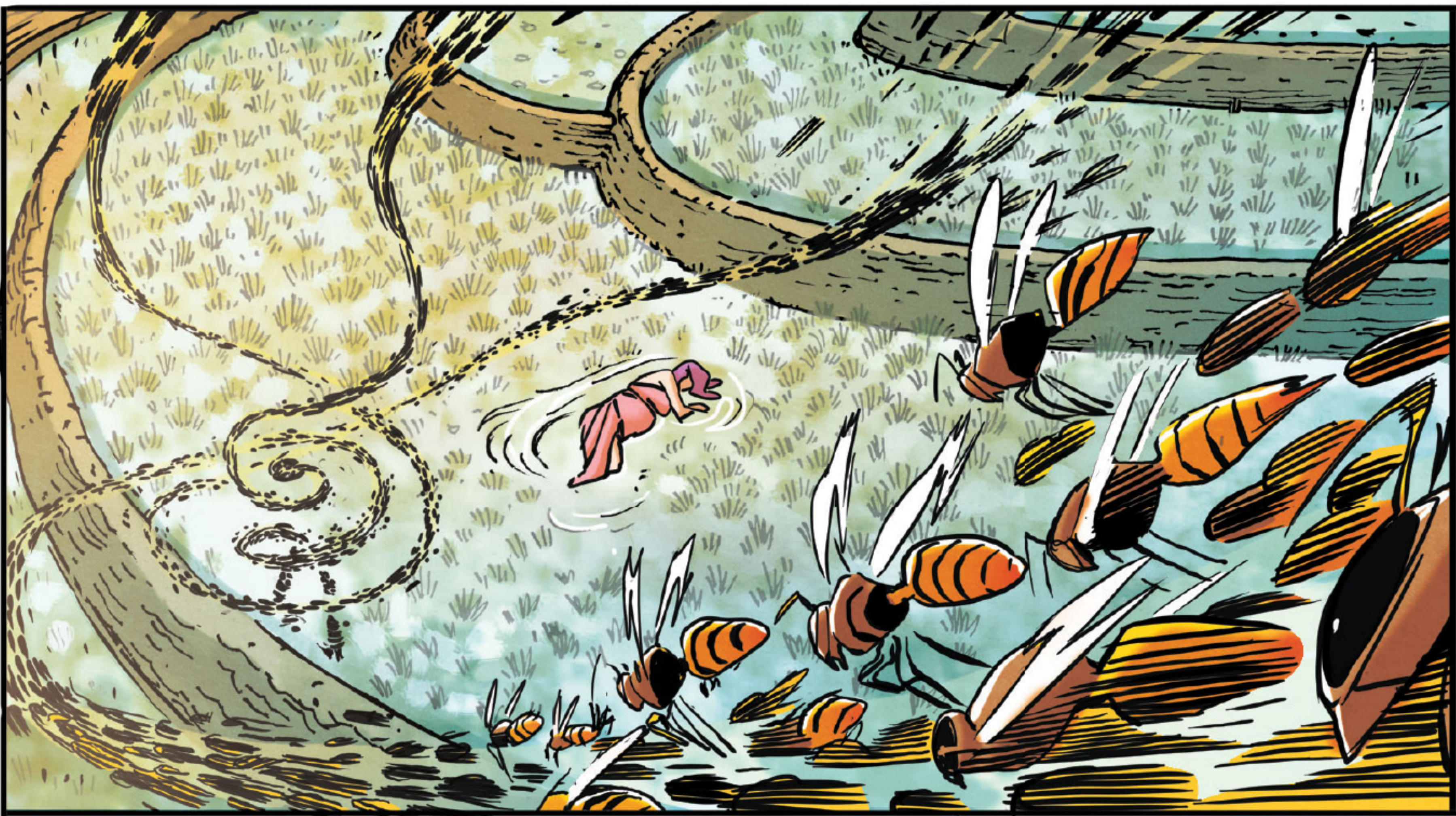
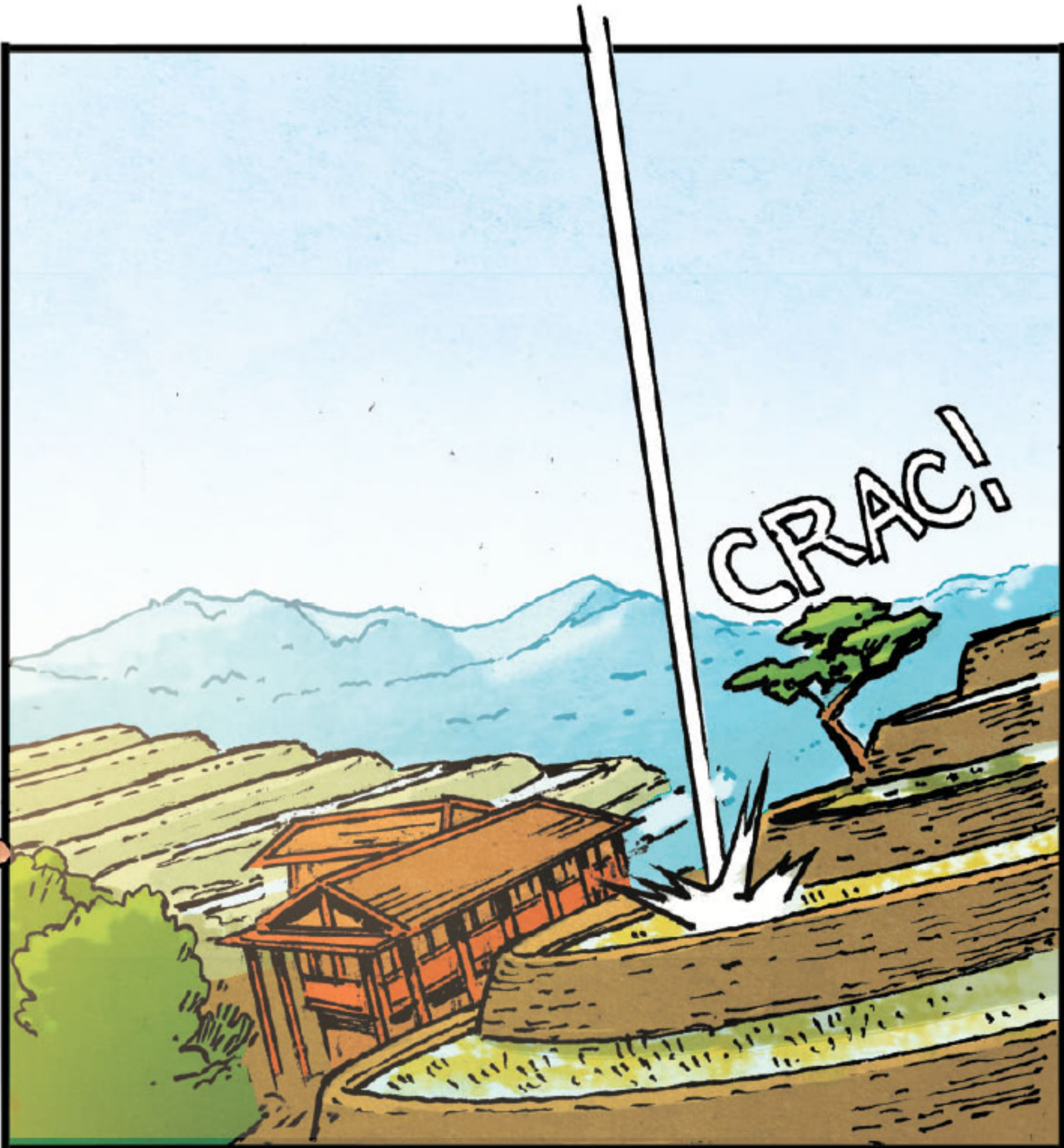
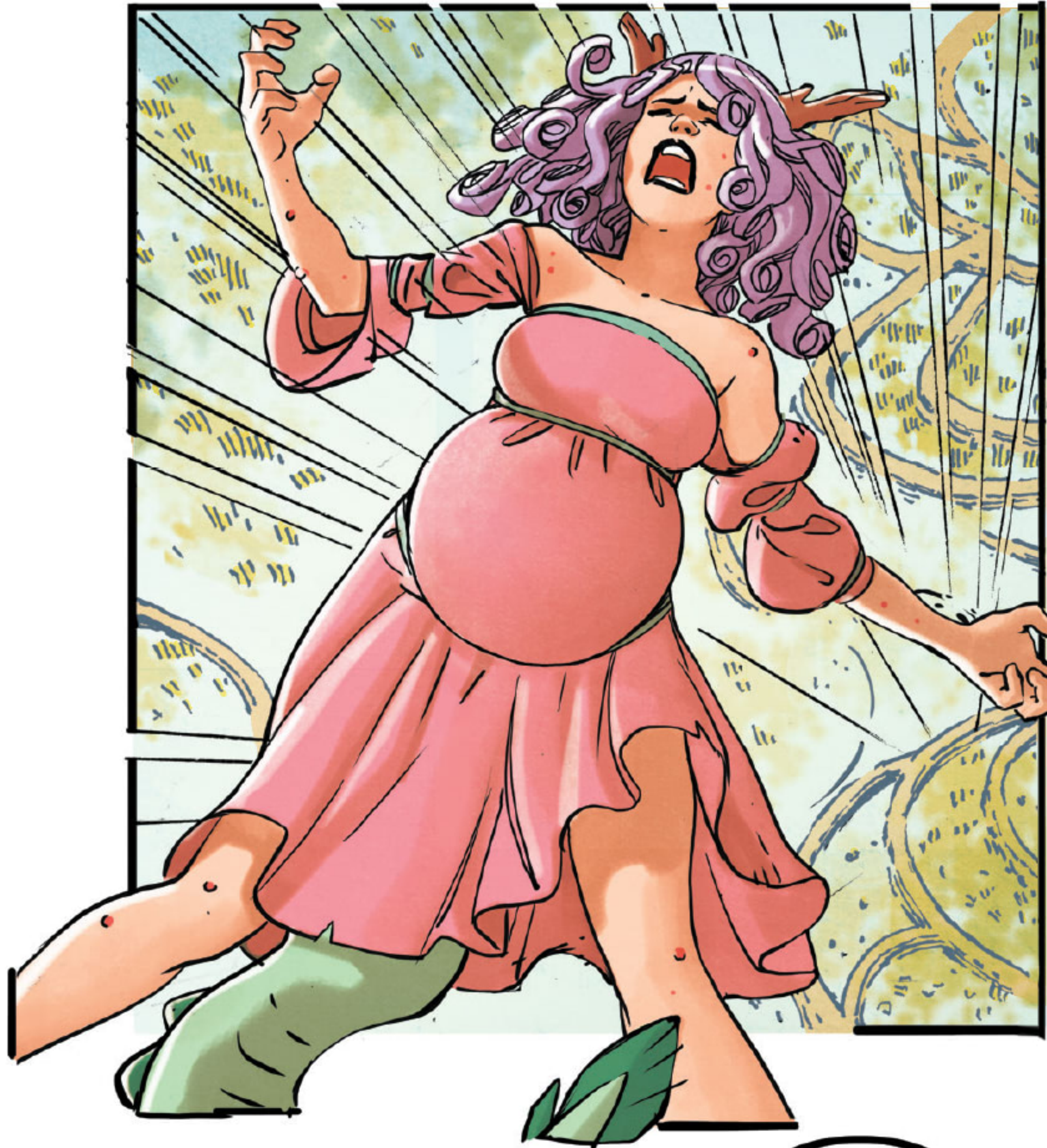
**PART SEVEN:
OPERATION
MAYHEM**

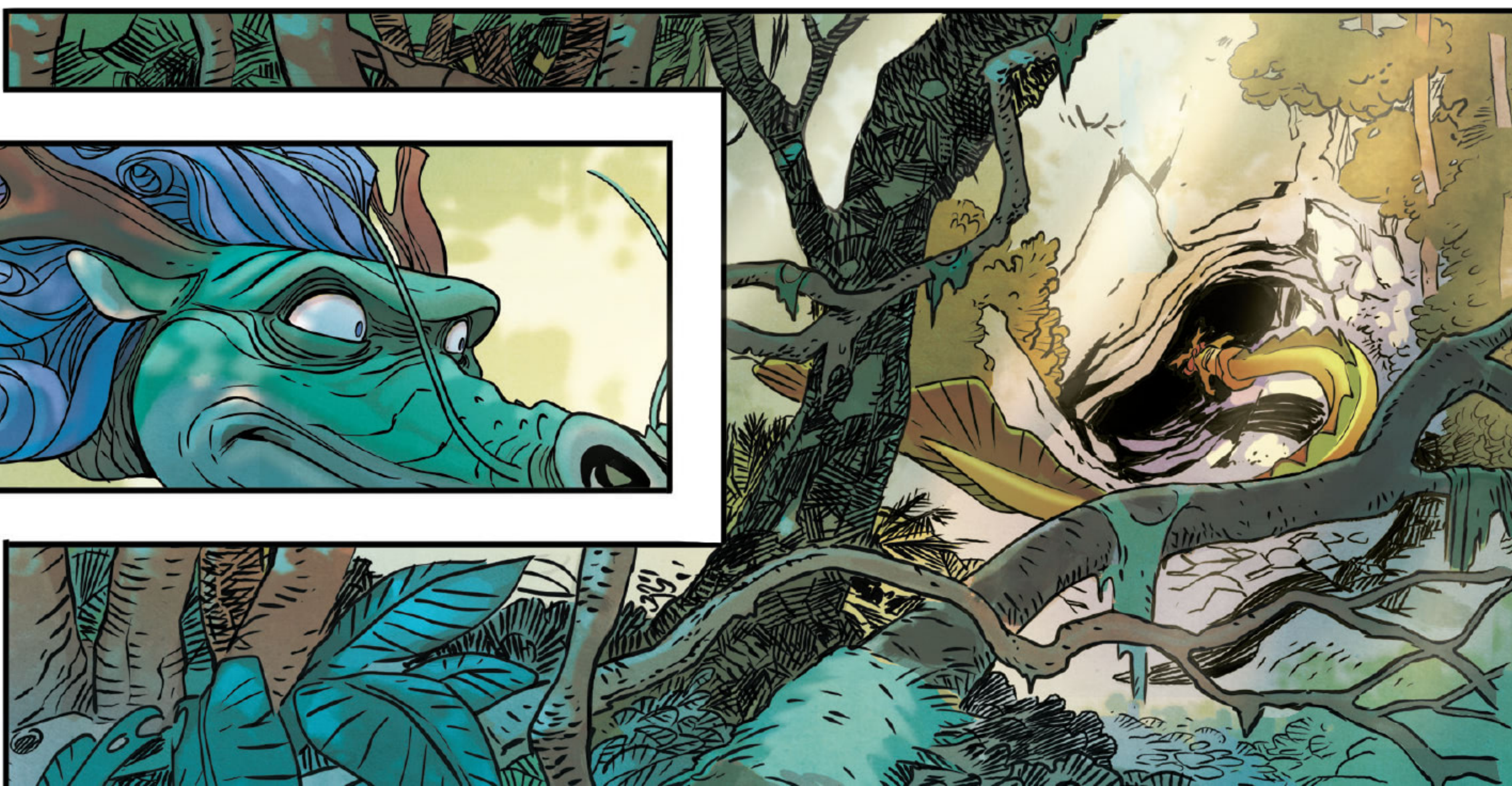
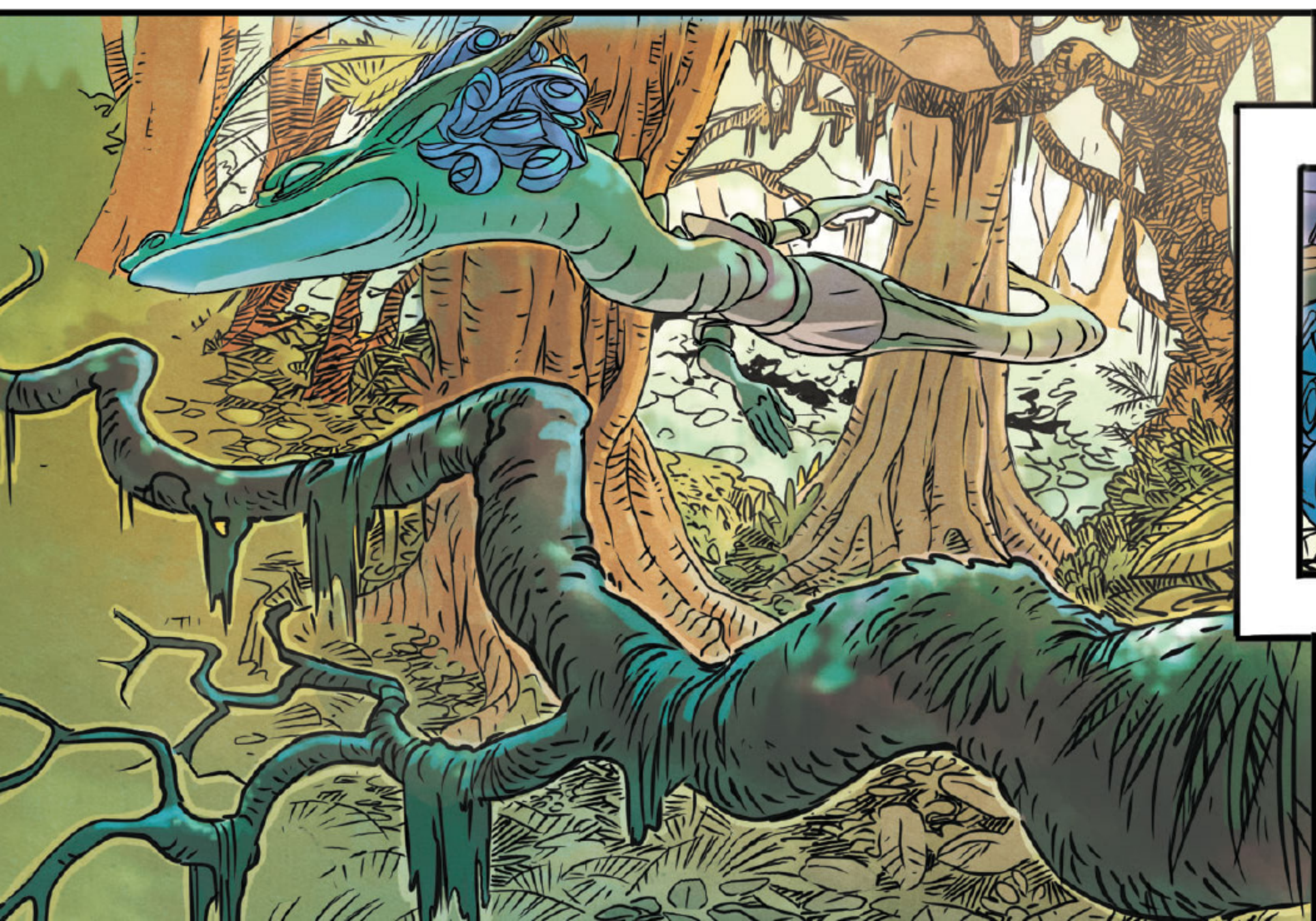
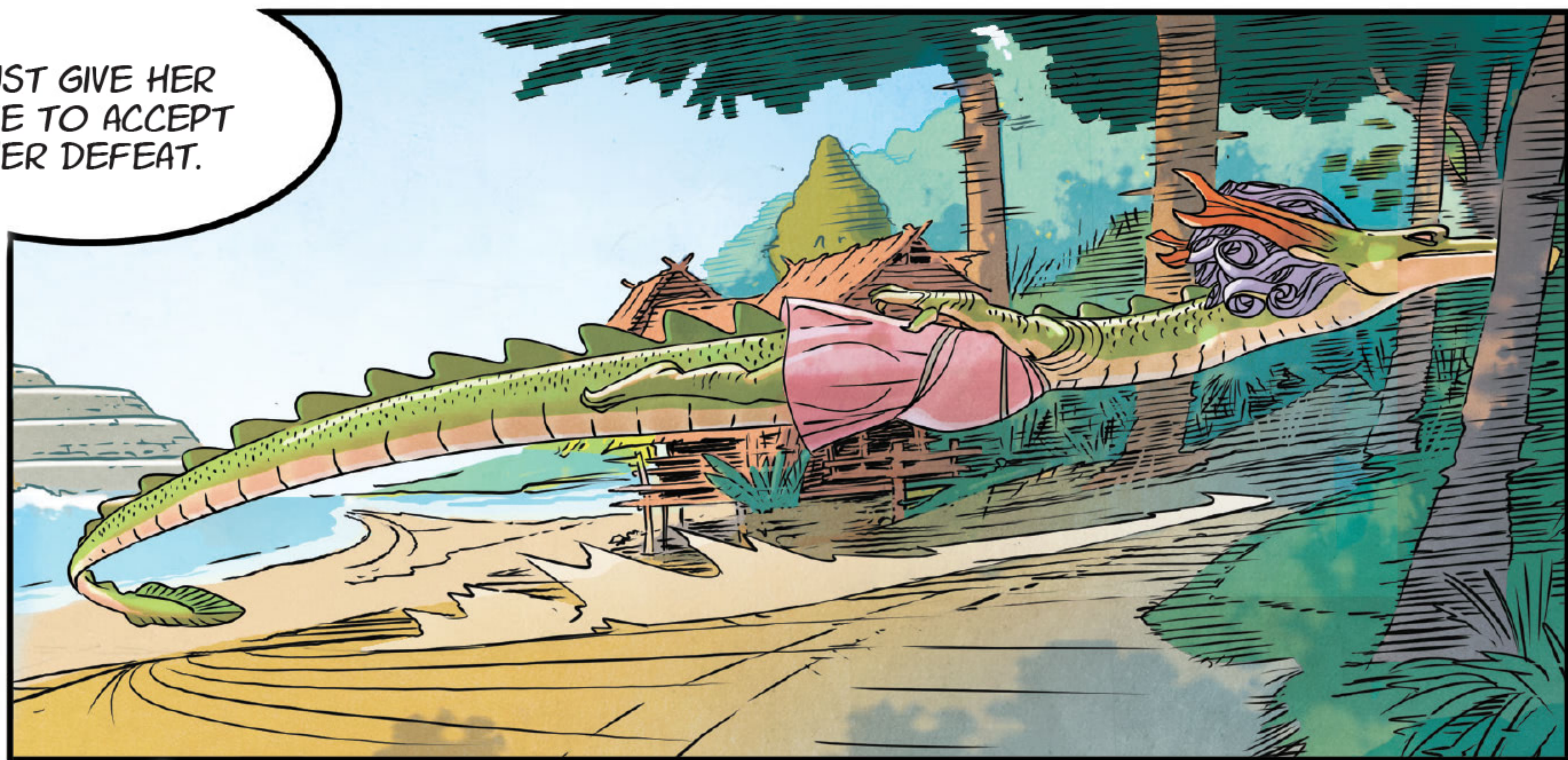
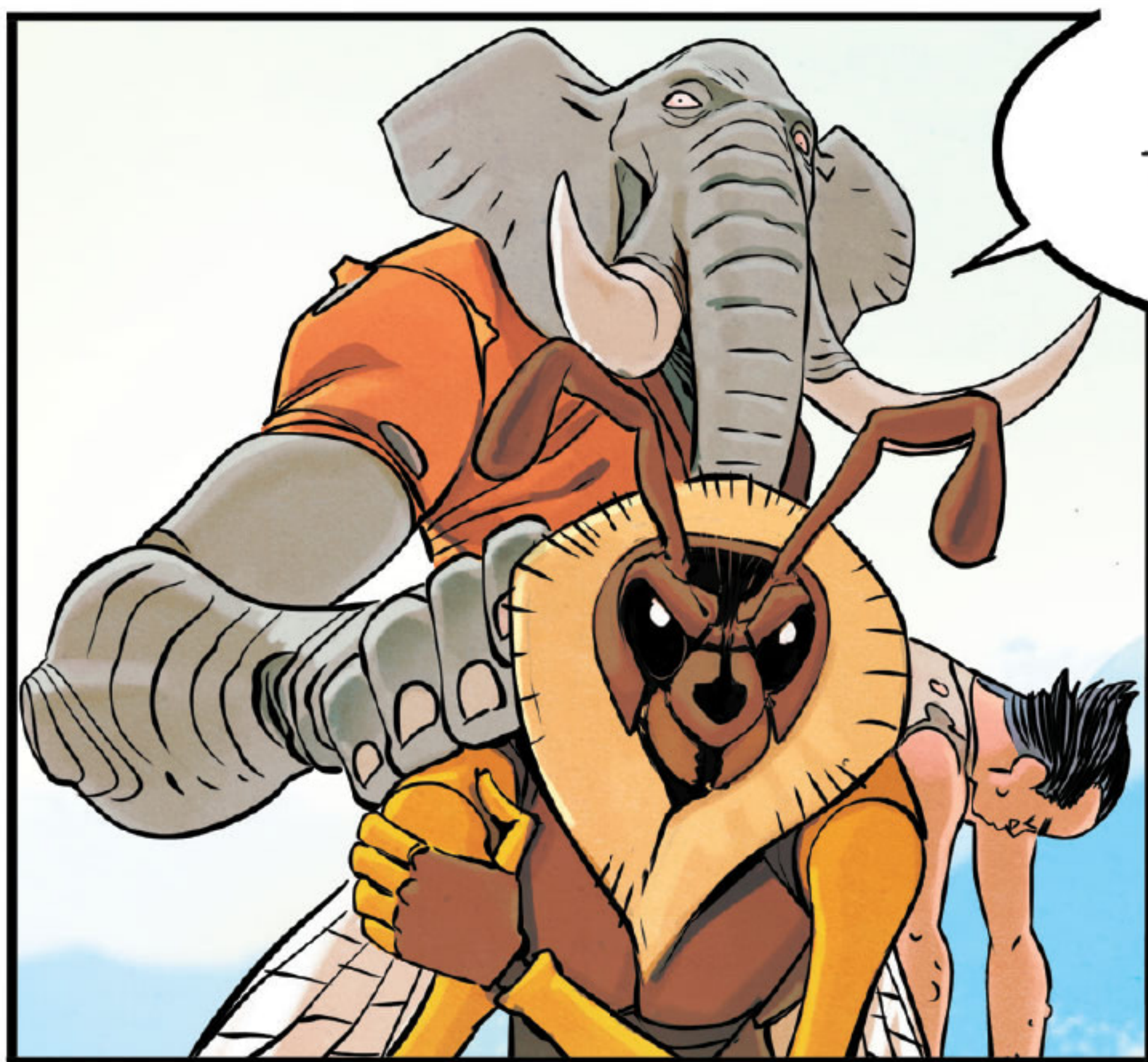
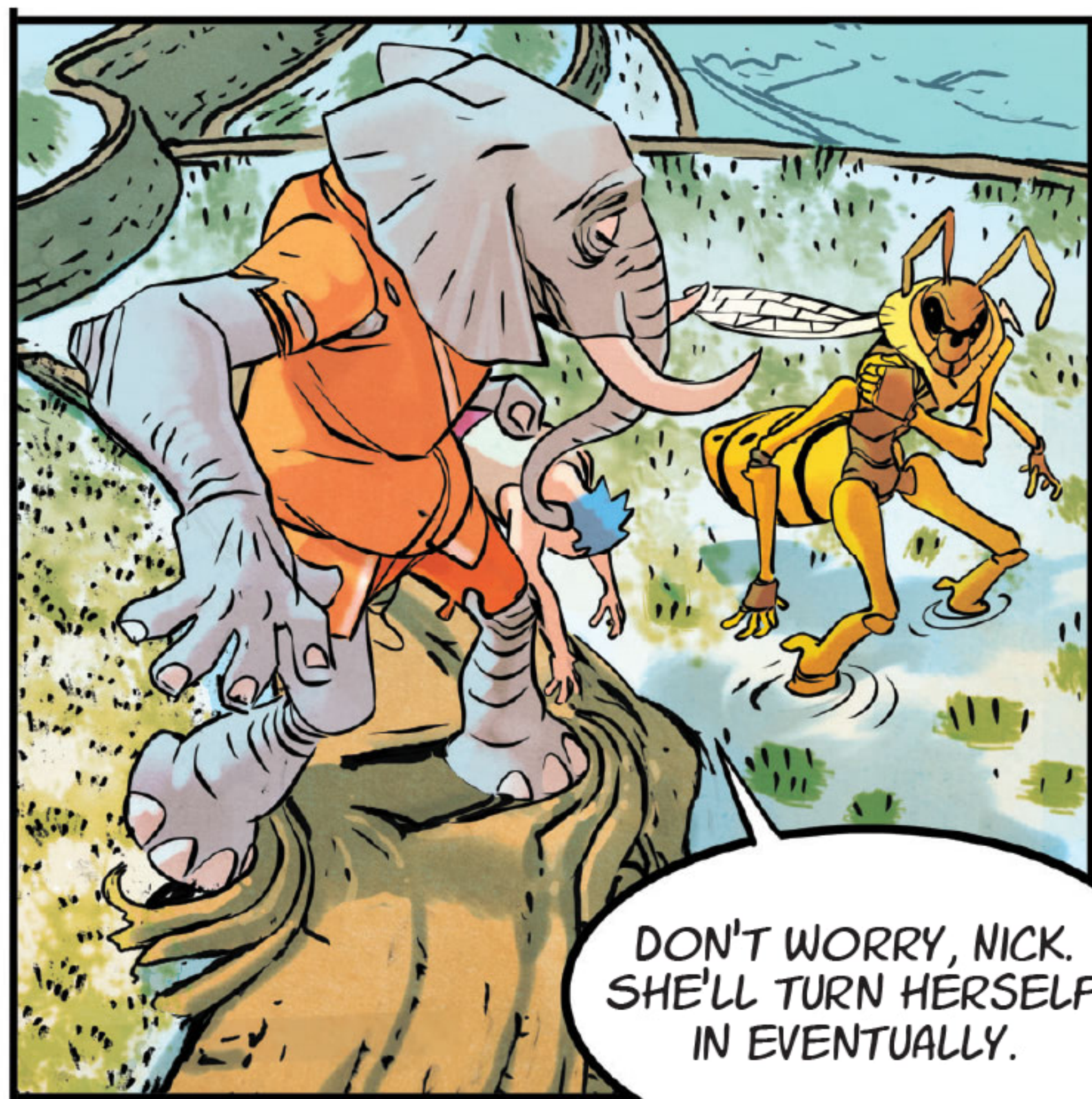
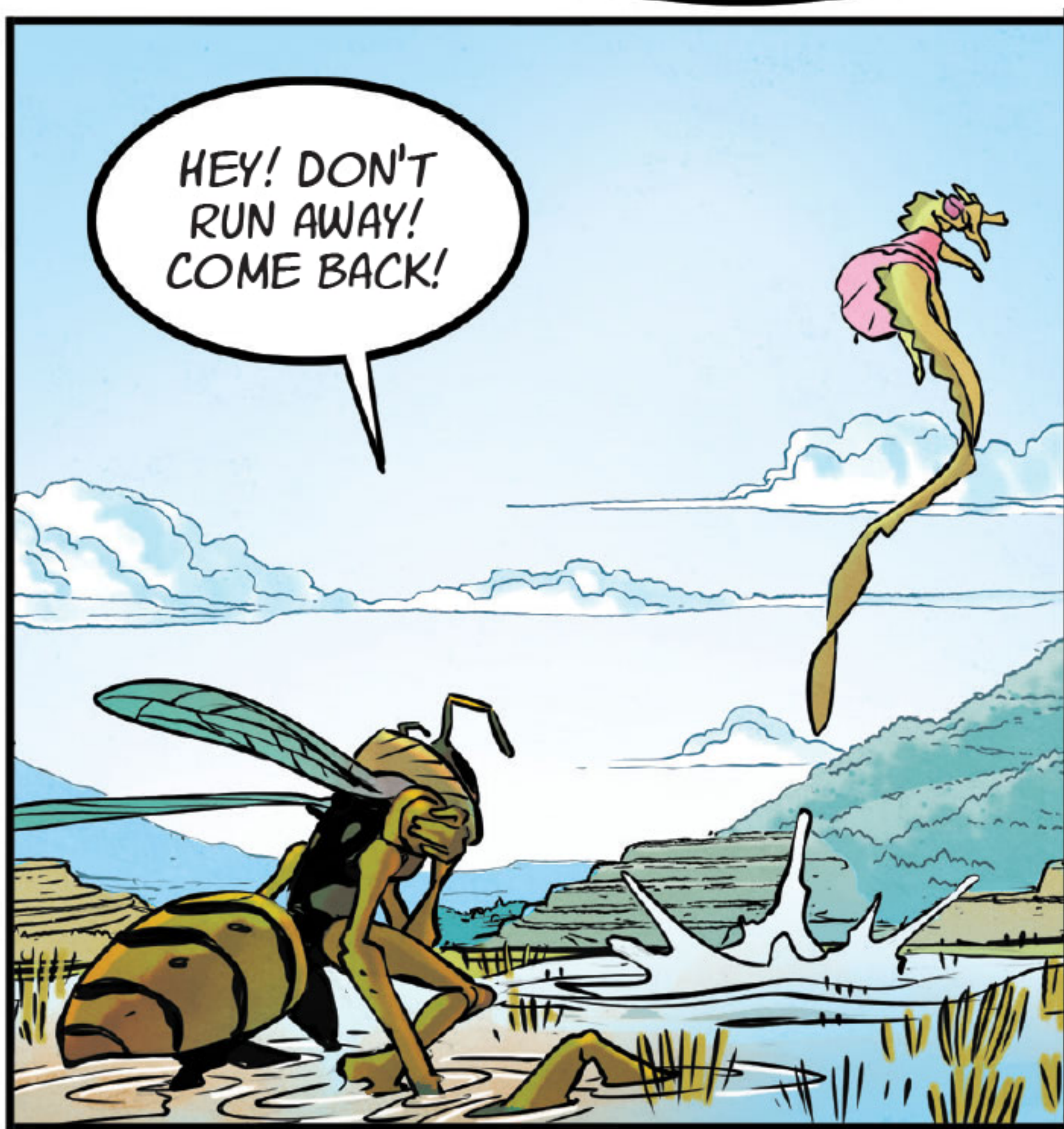
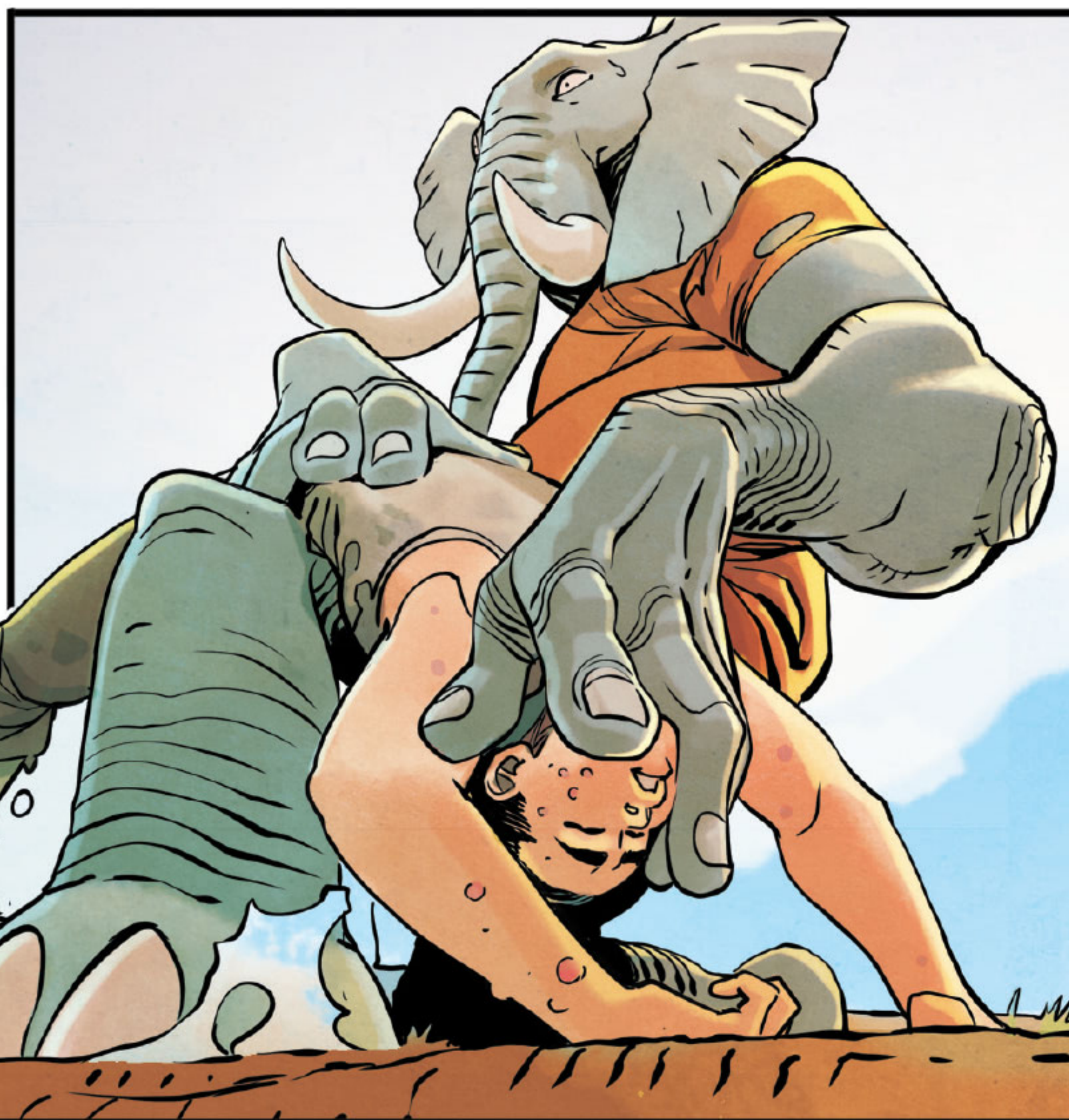
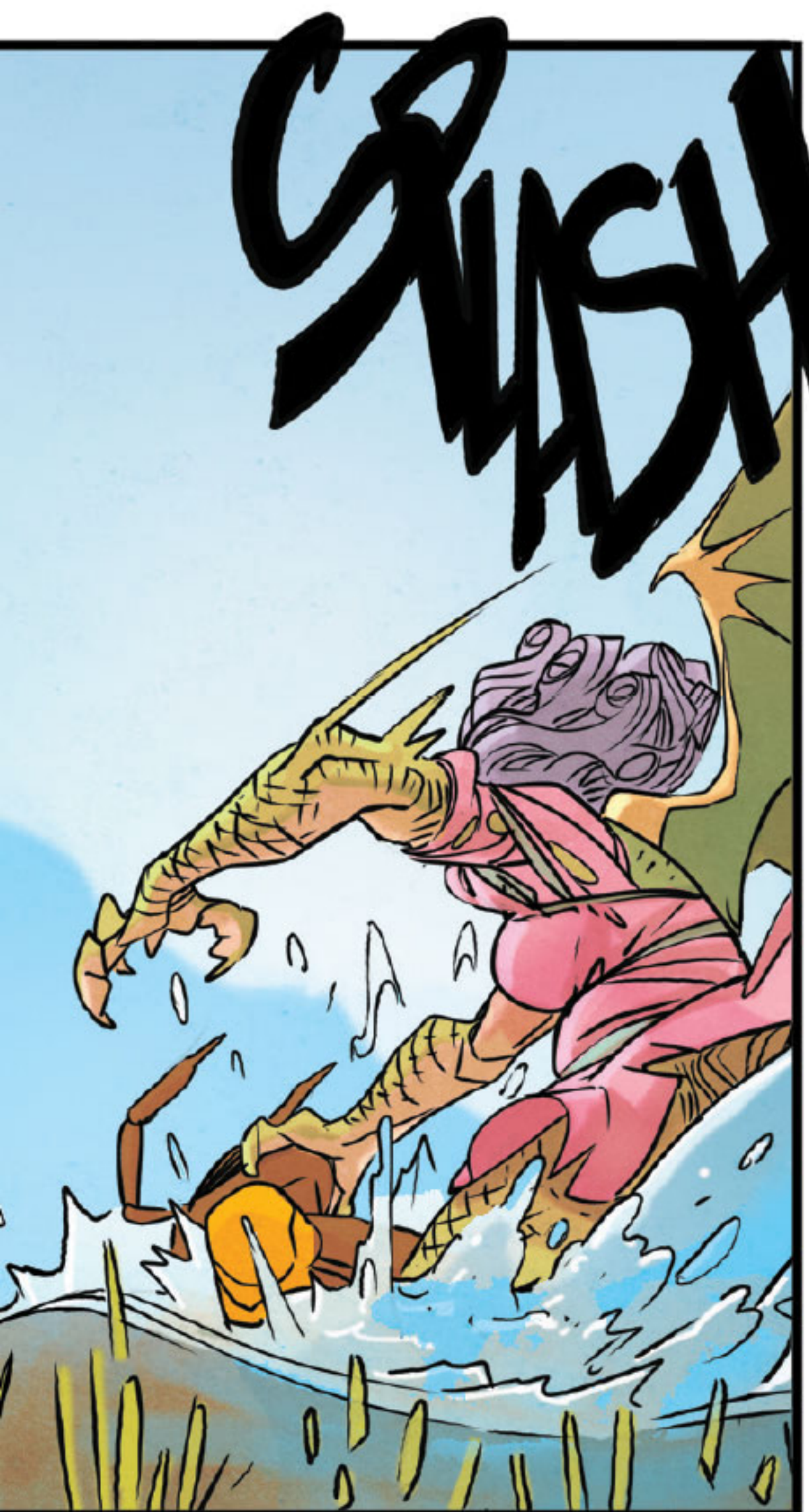


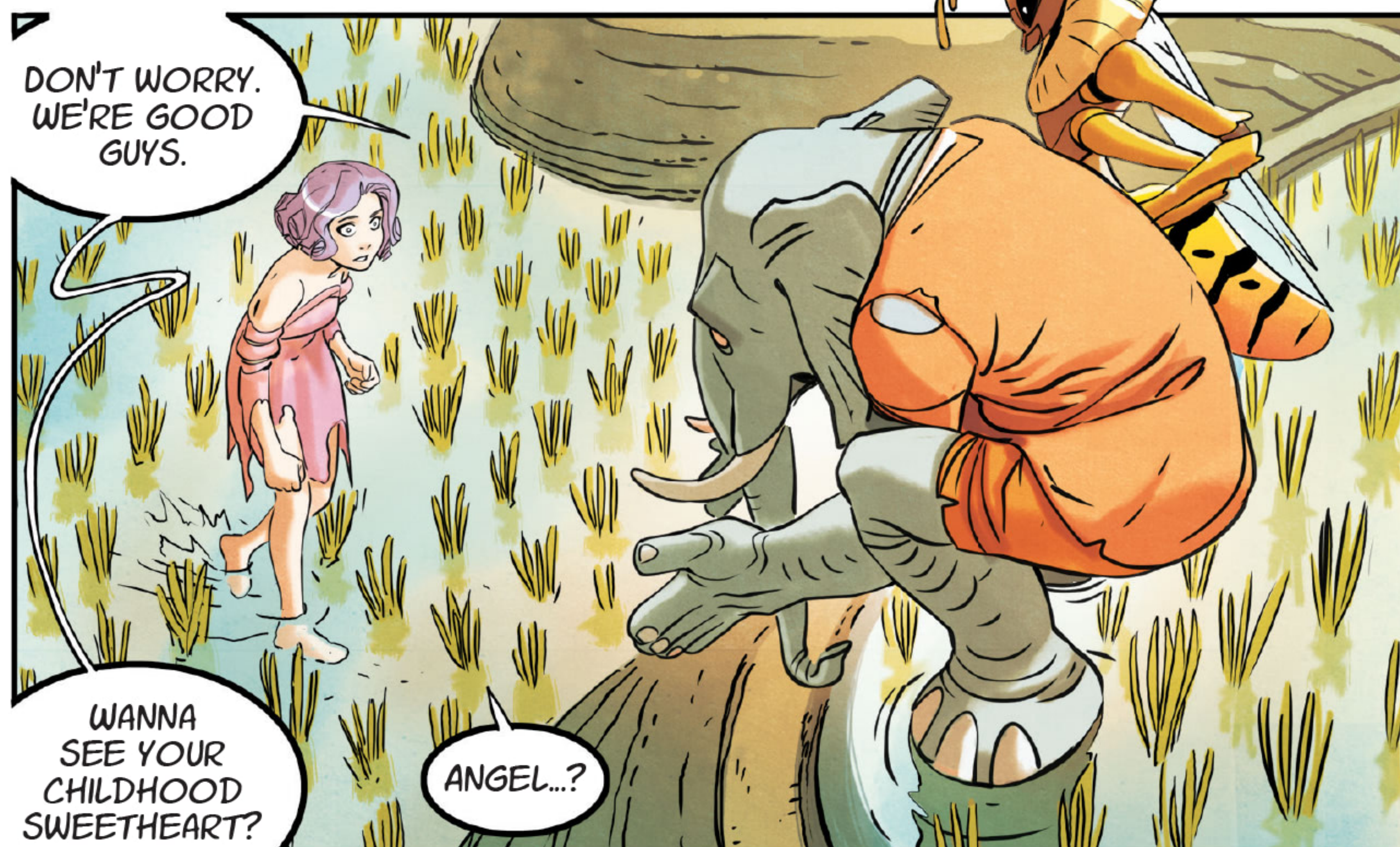
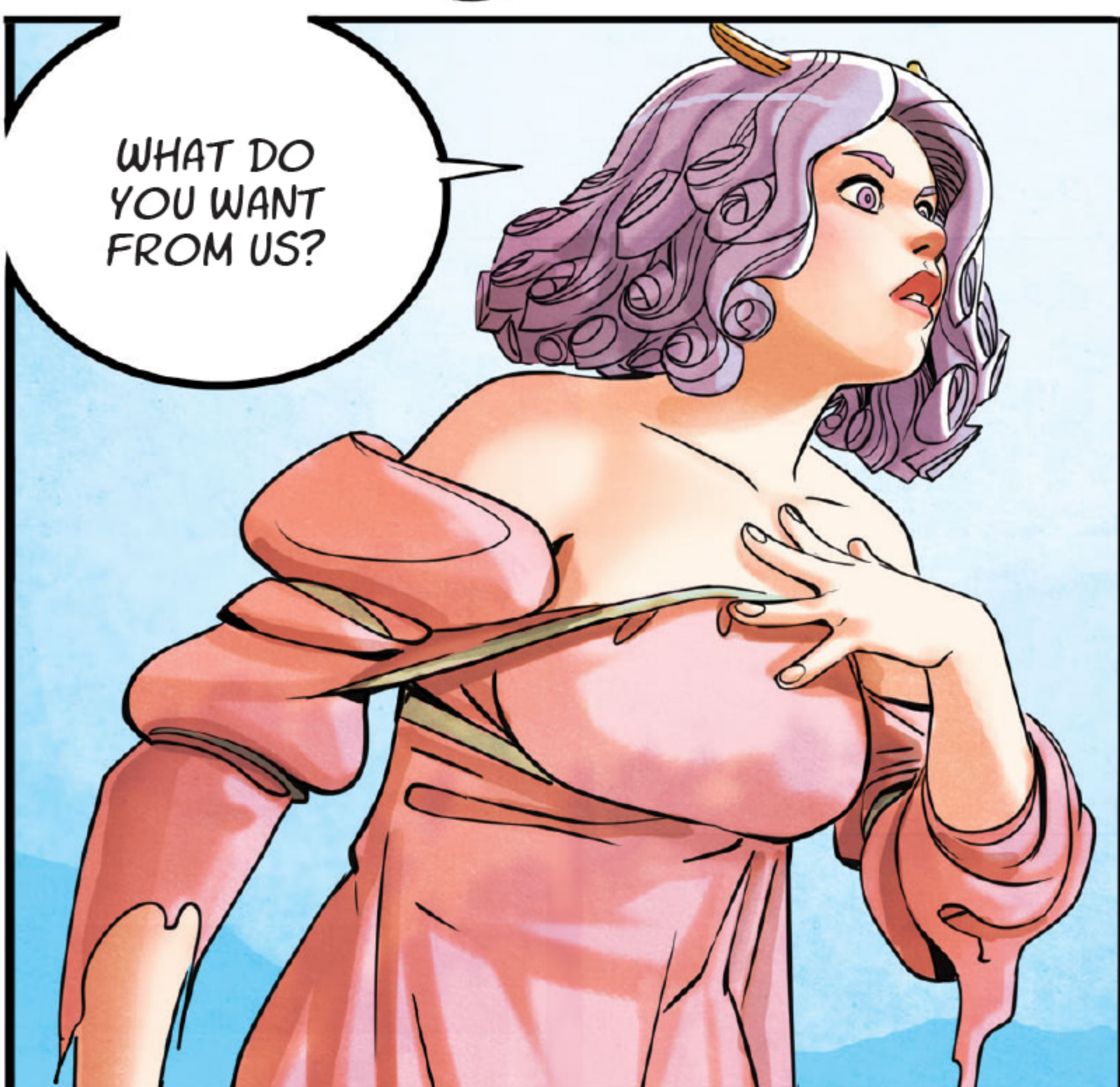
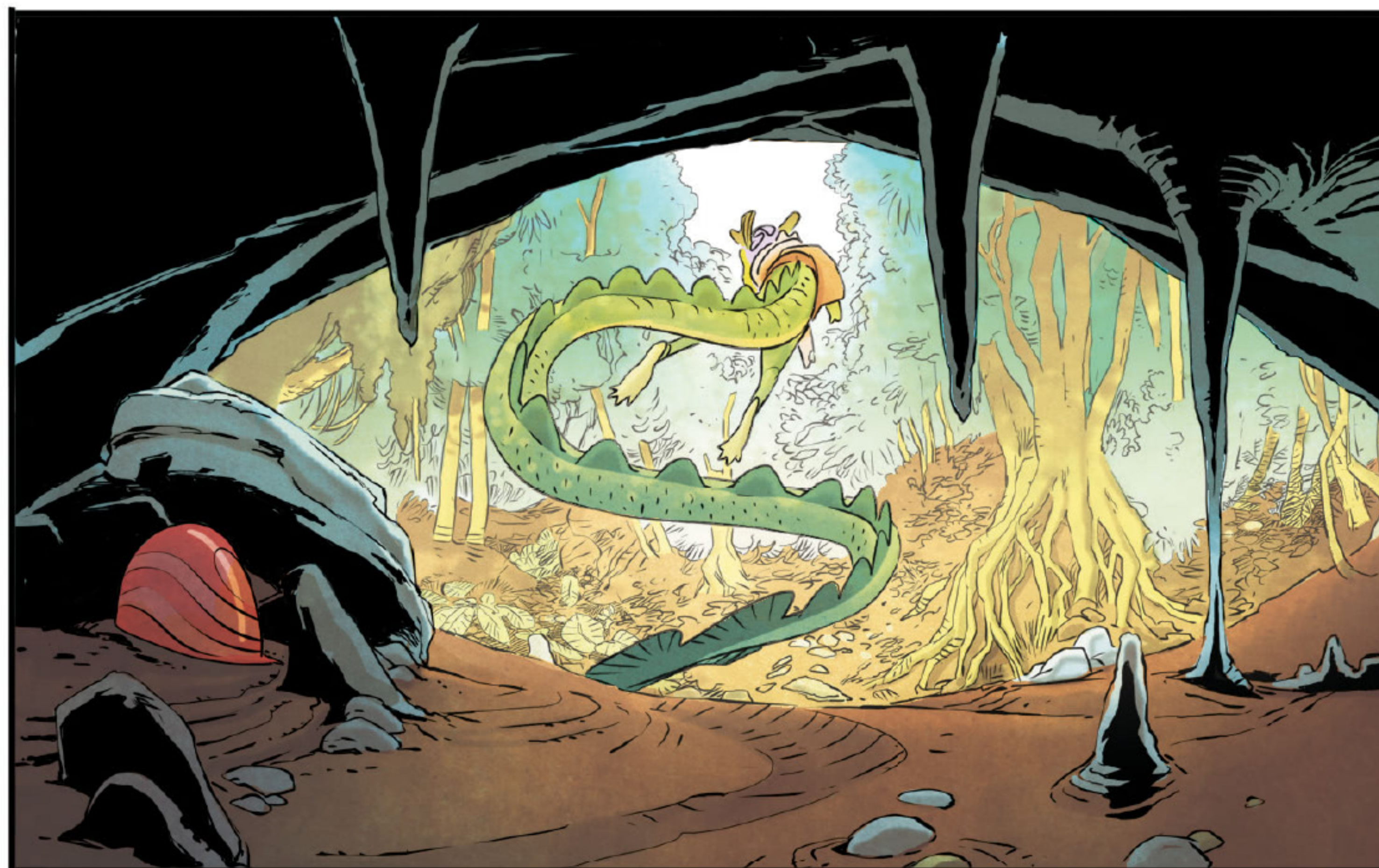


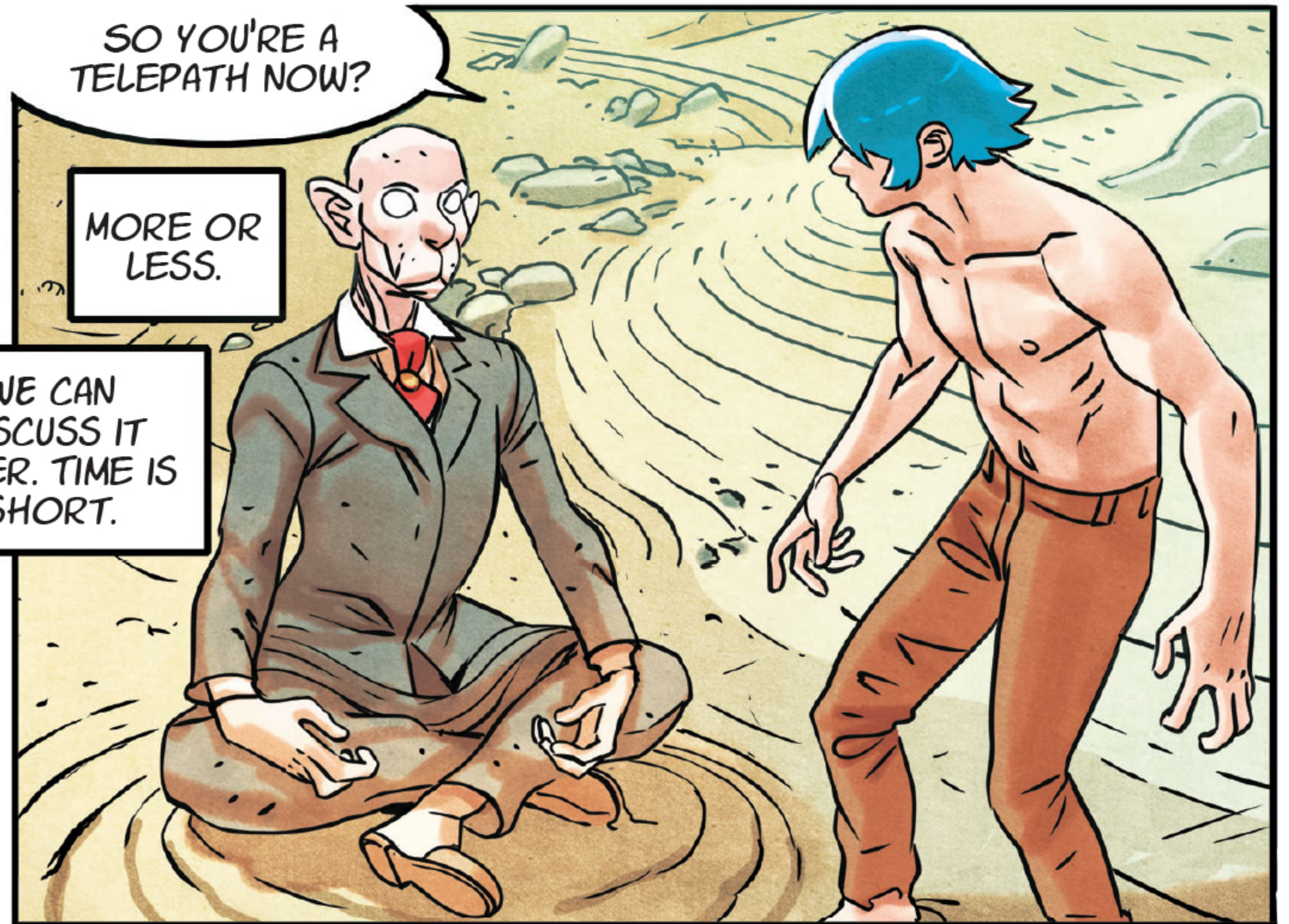
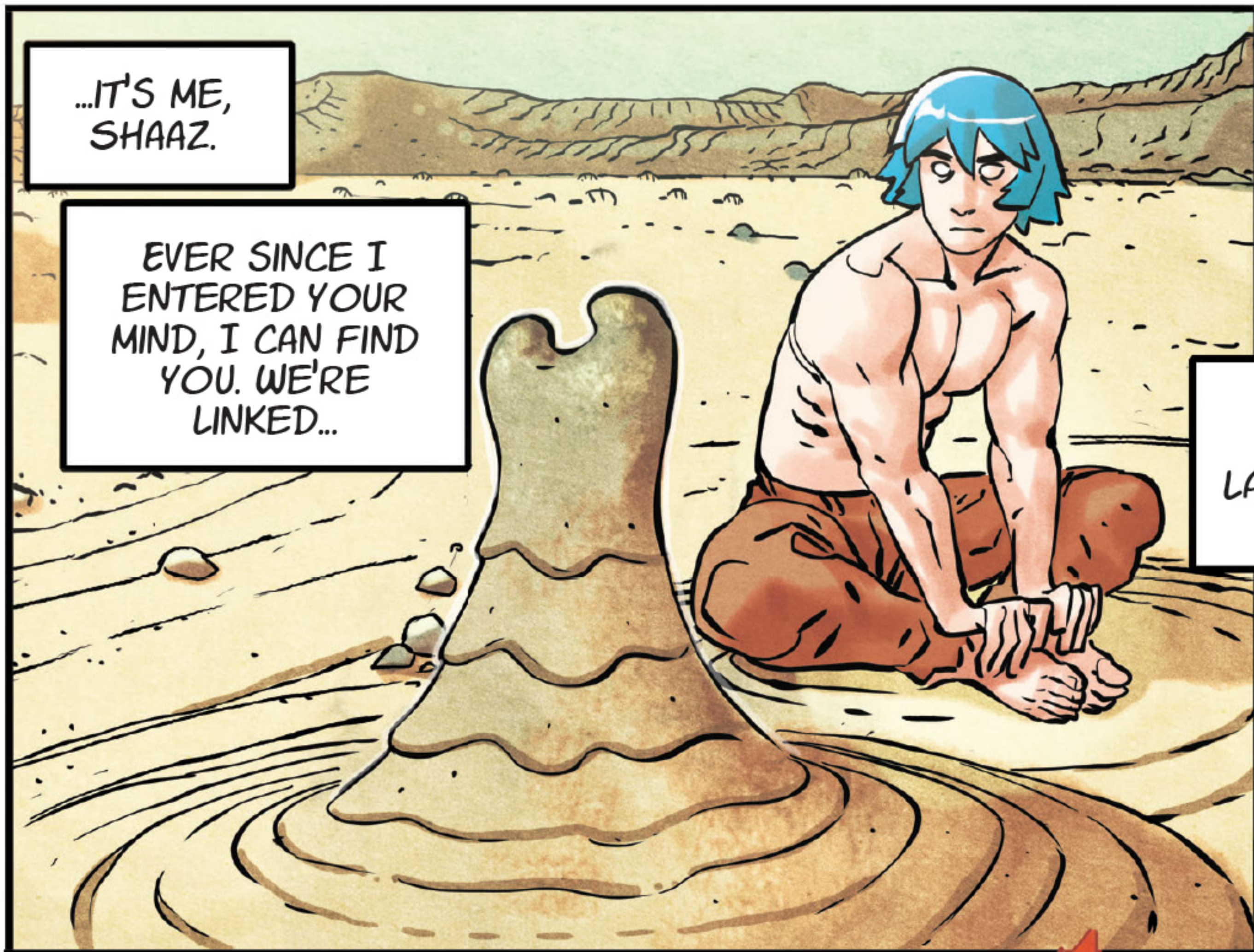
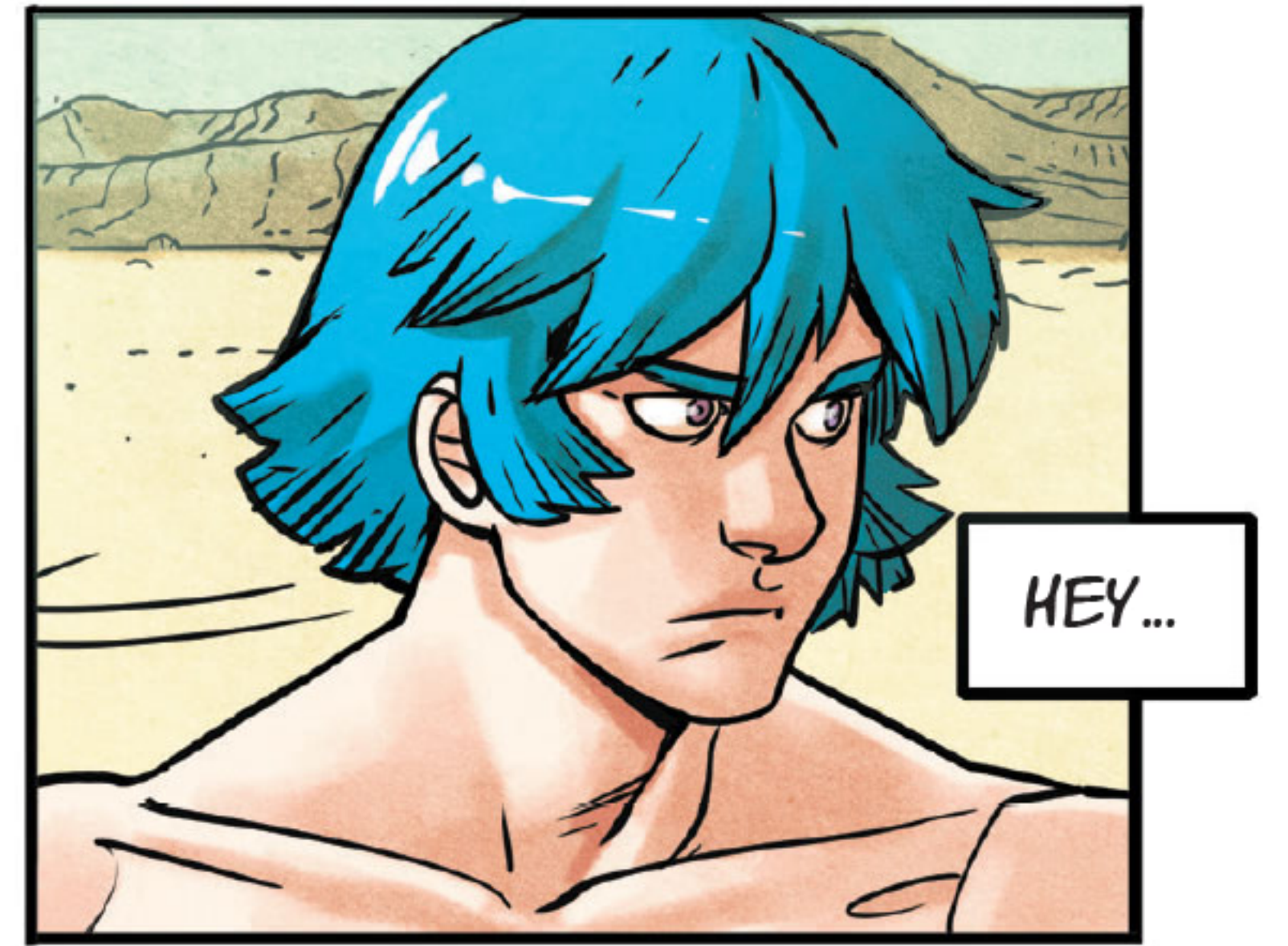
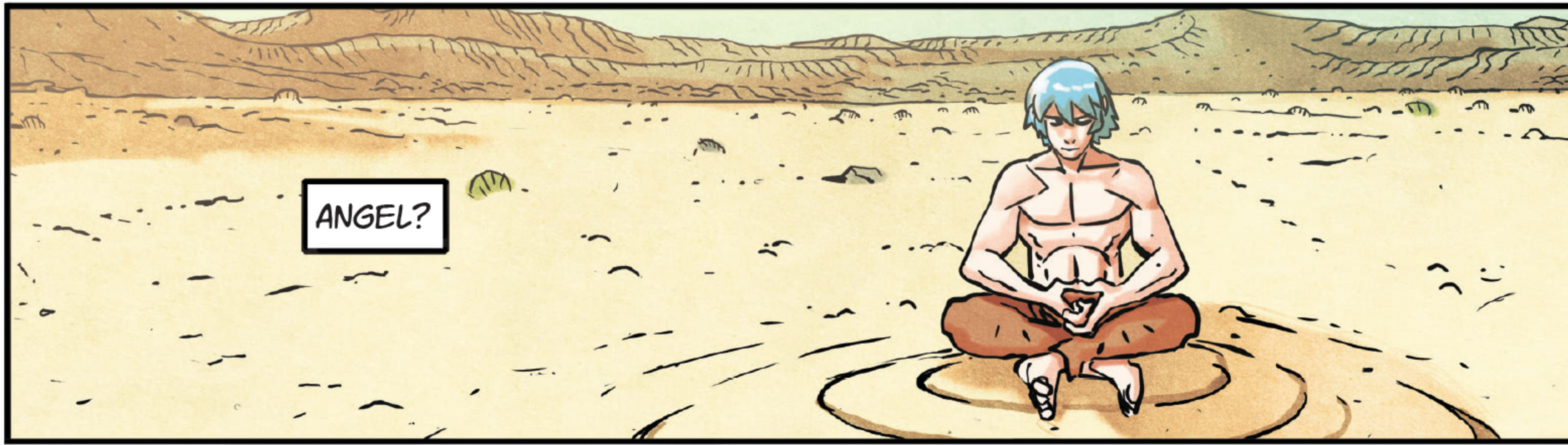
THE WASPS...
THEY STOP OUR
POWERS...!









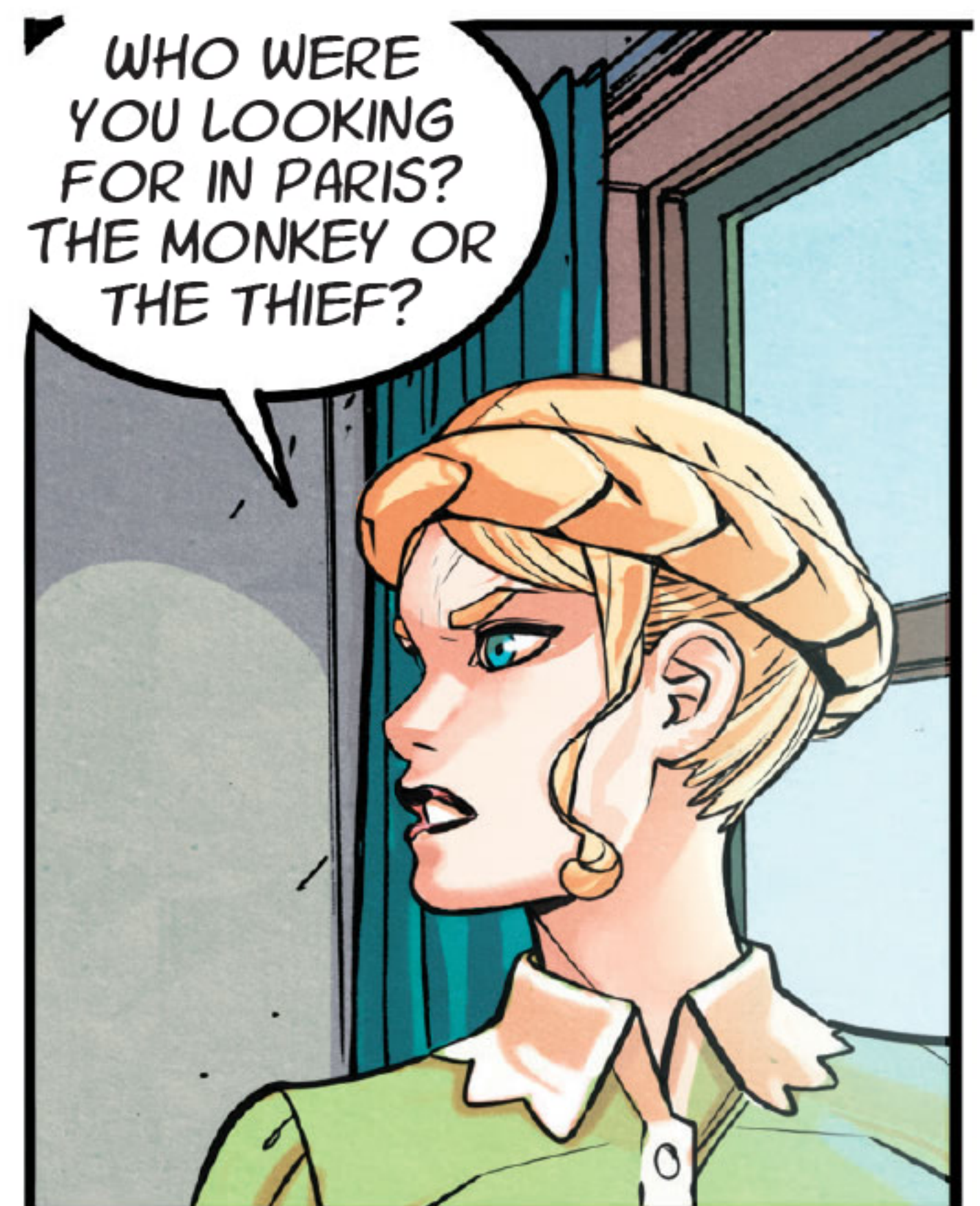
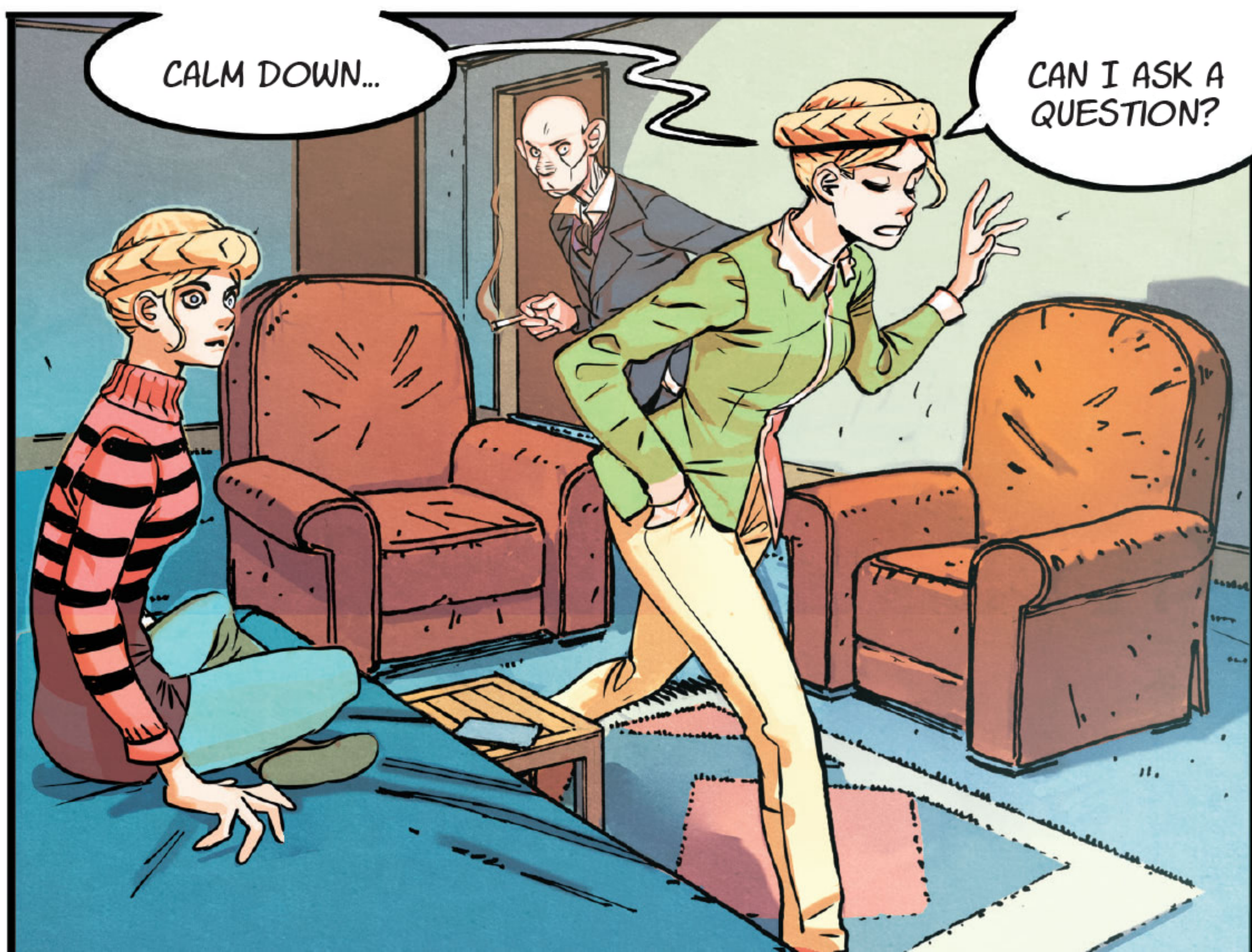
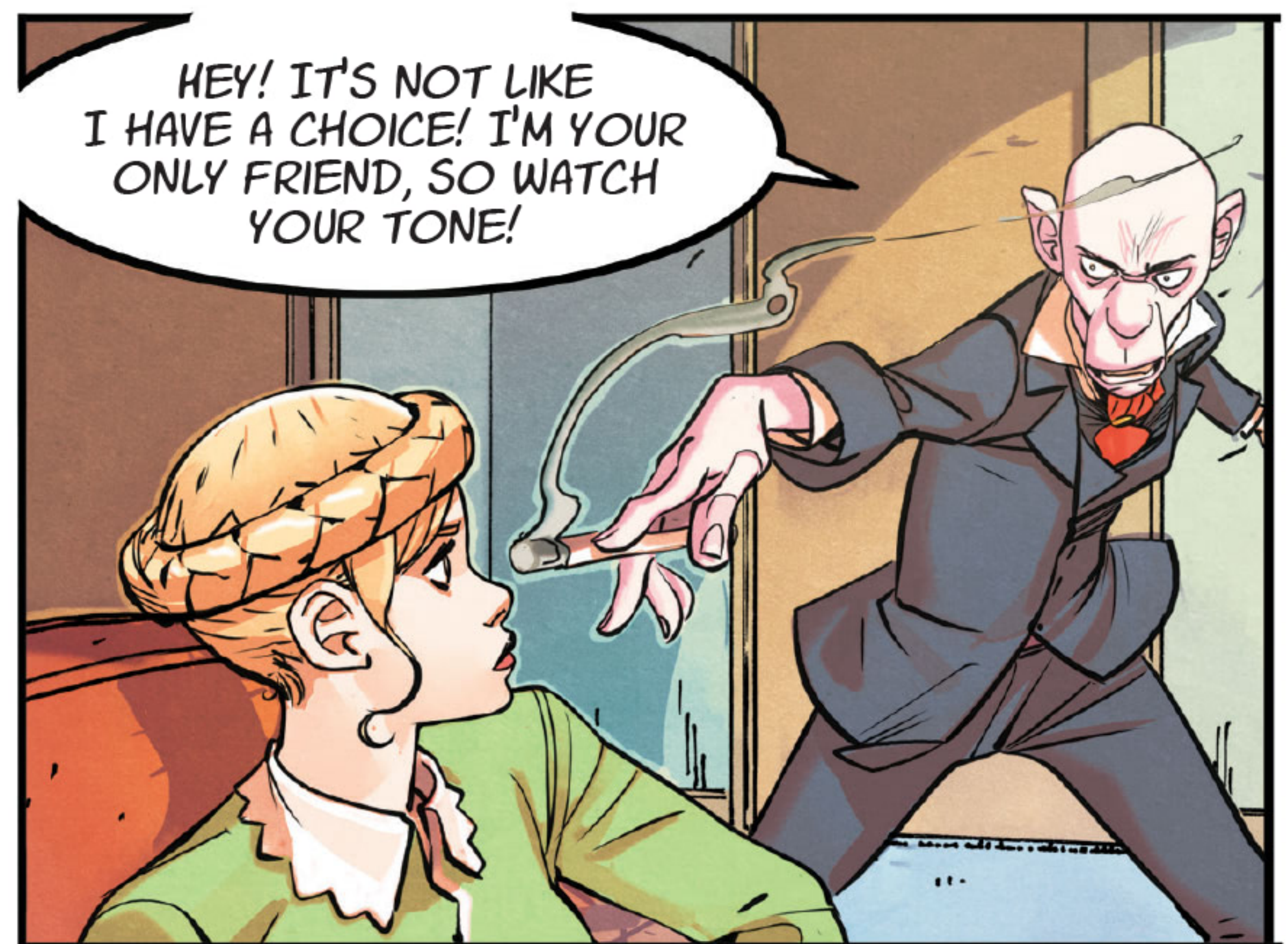
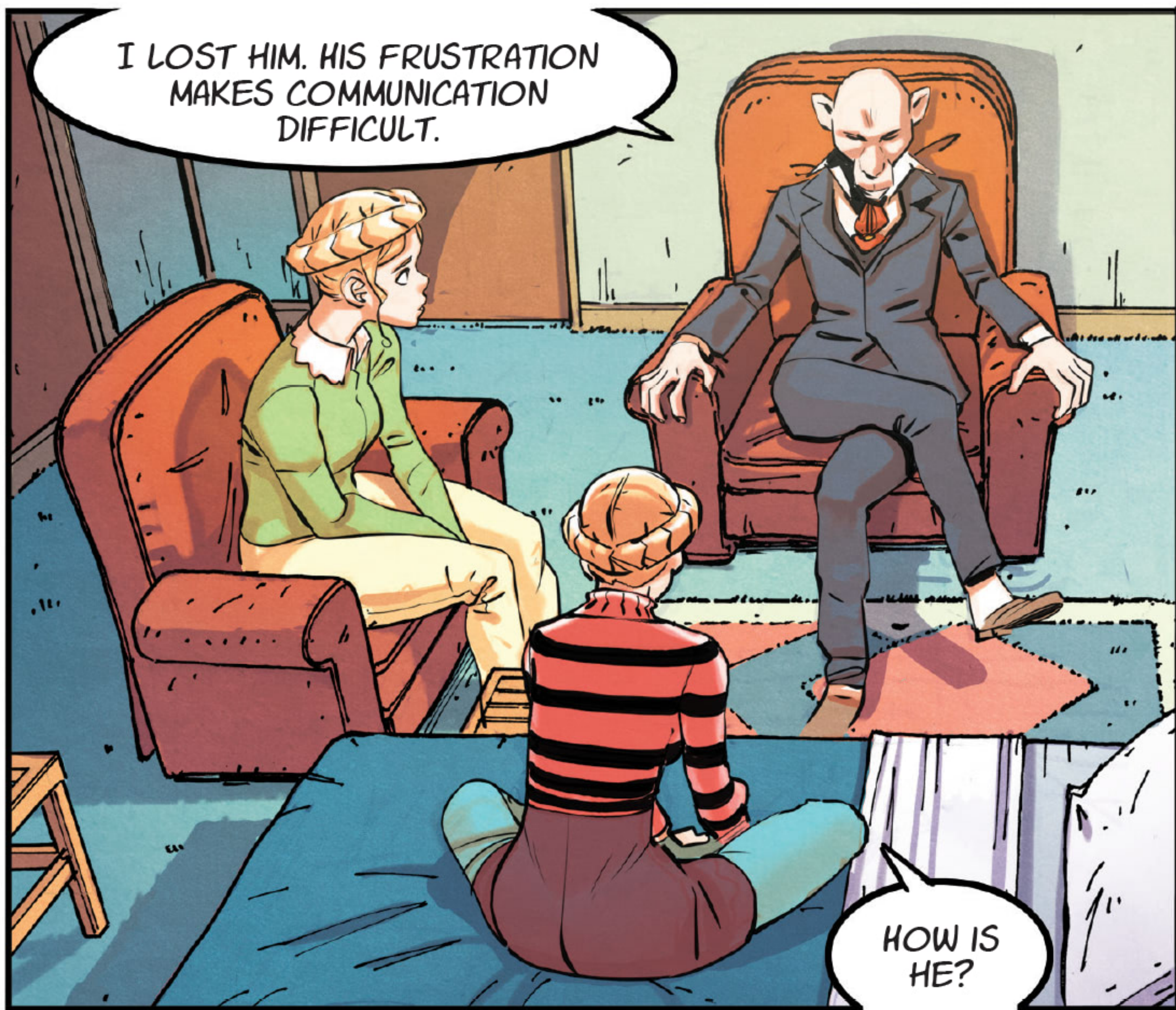
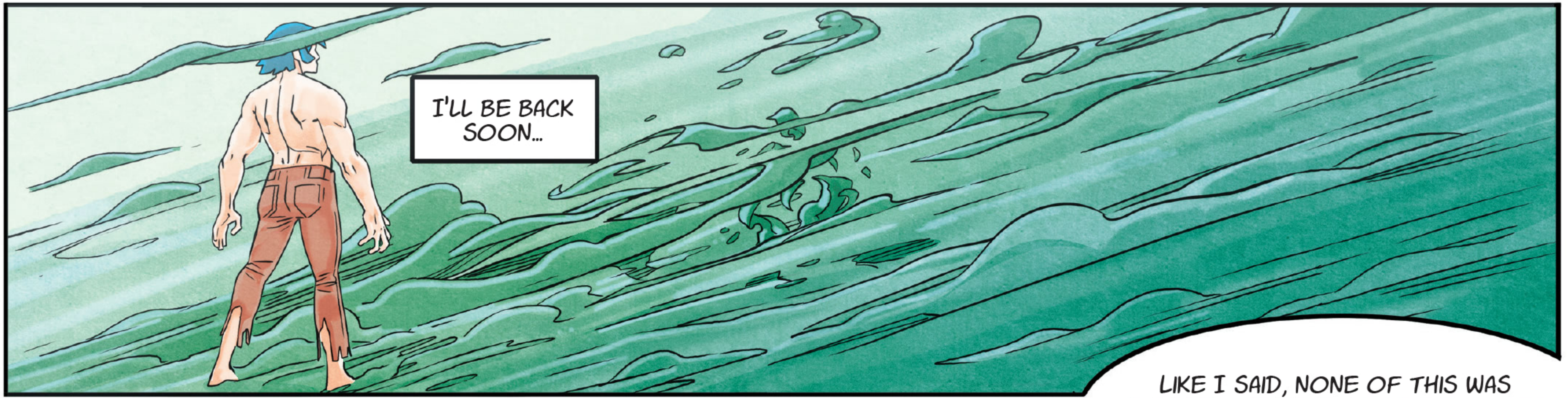


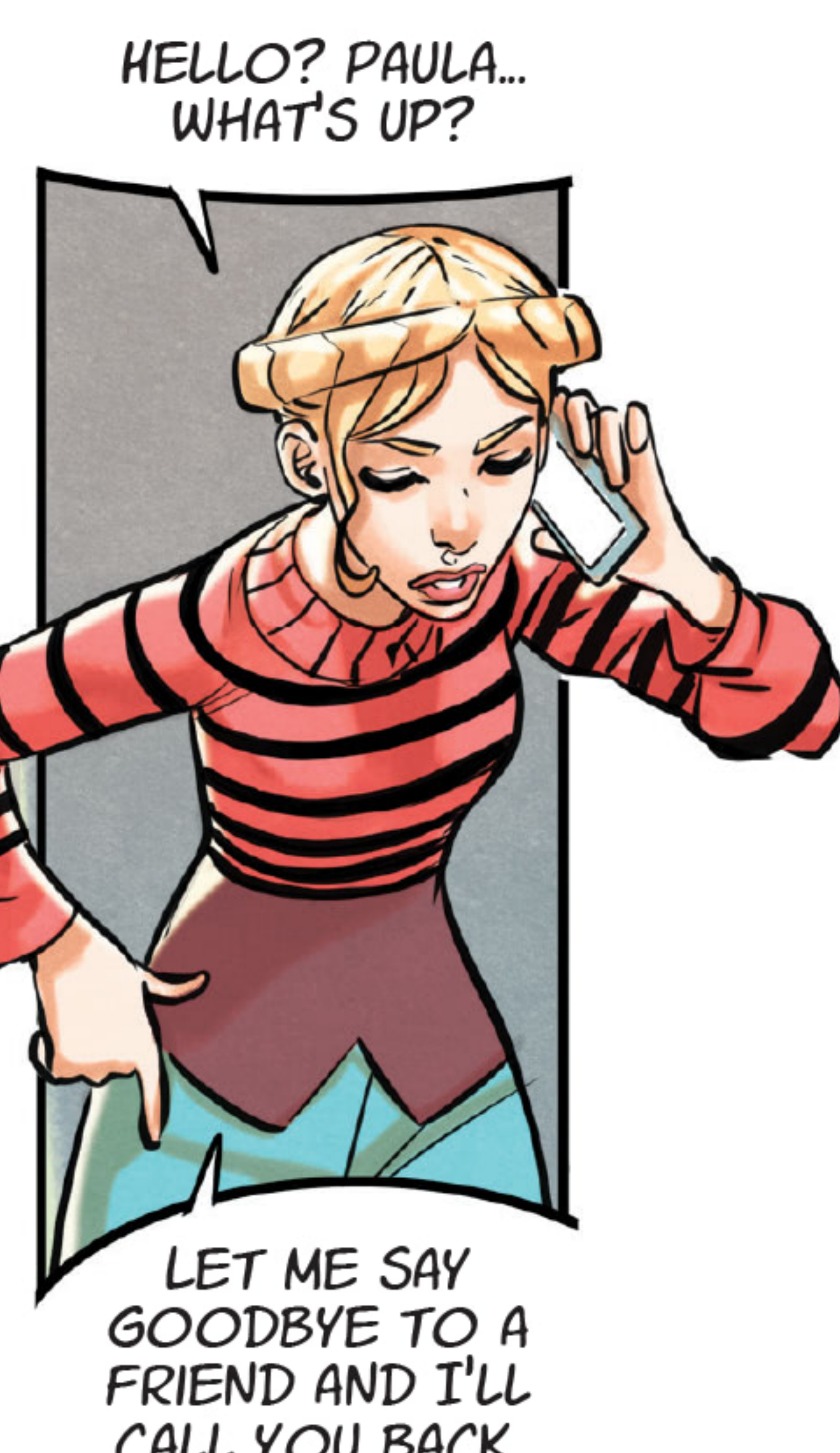
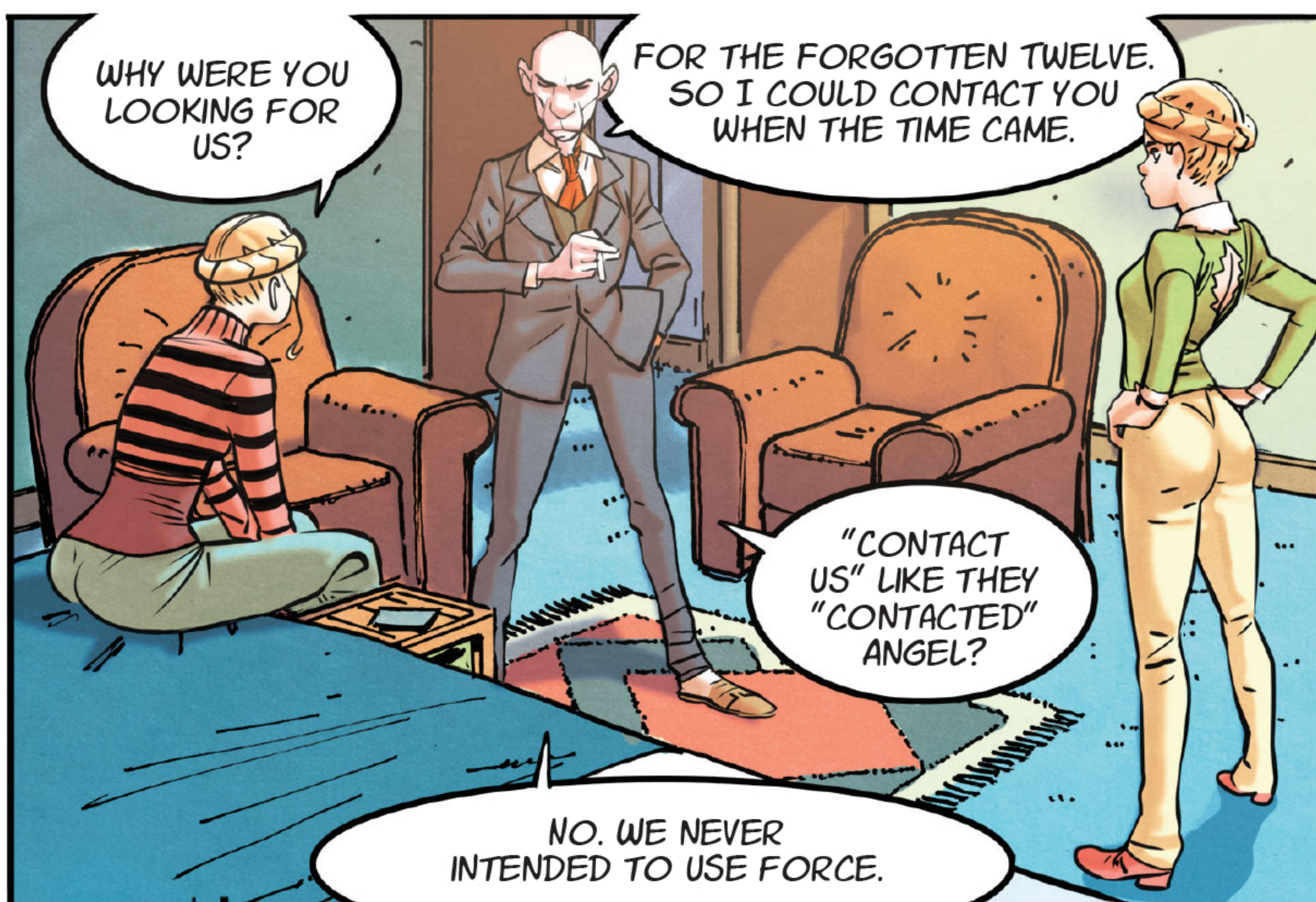
I CAME TO TELL YOU THAT I'VE TAKEN EWA AND HER SISTER IN FOR SHELTER. THEY'RE UNDER MY PROTECTION NOW.

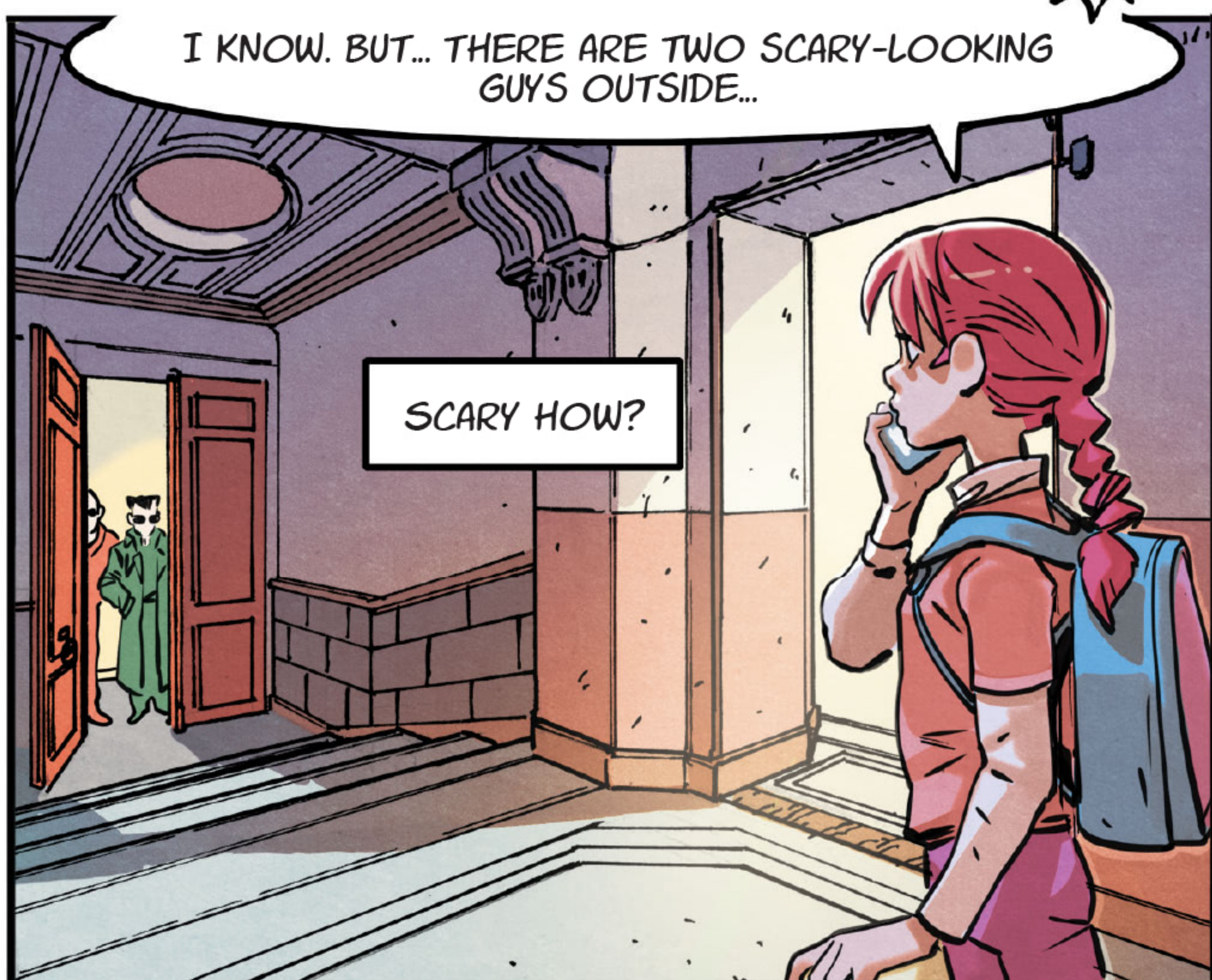
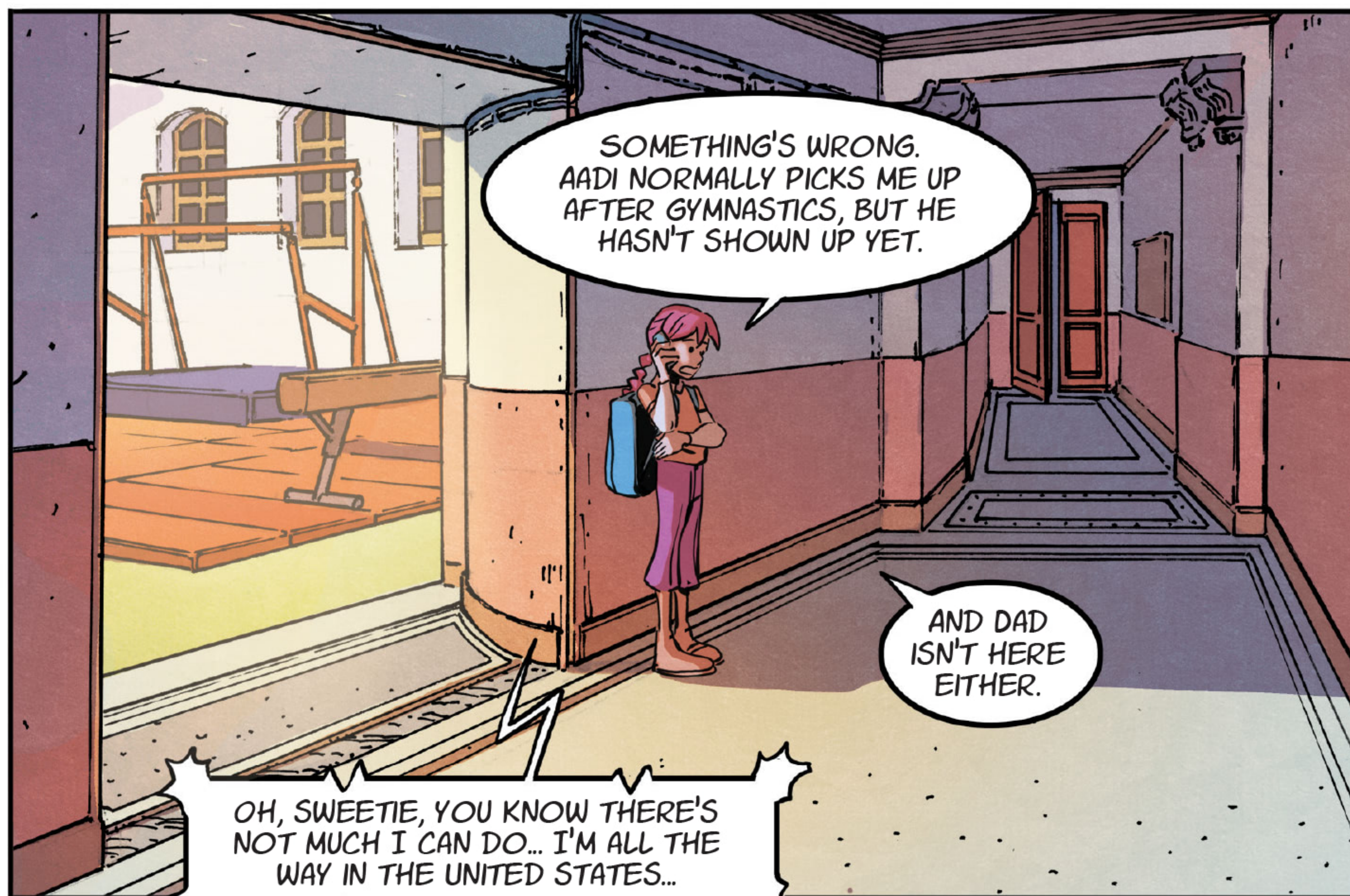


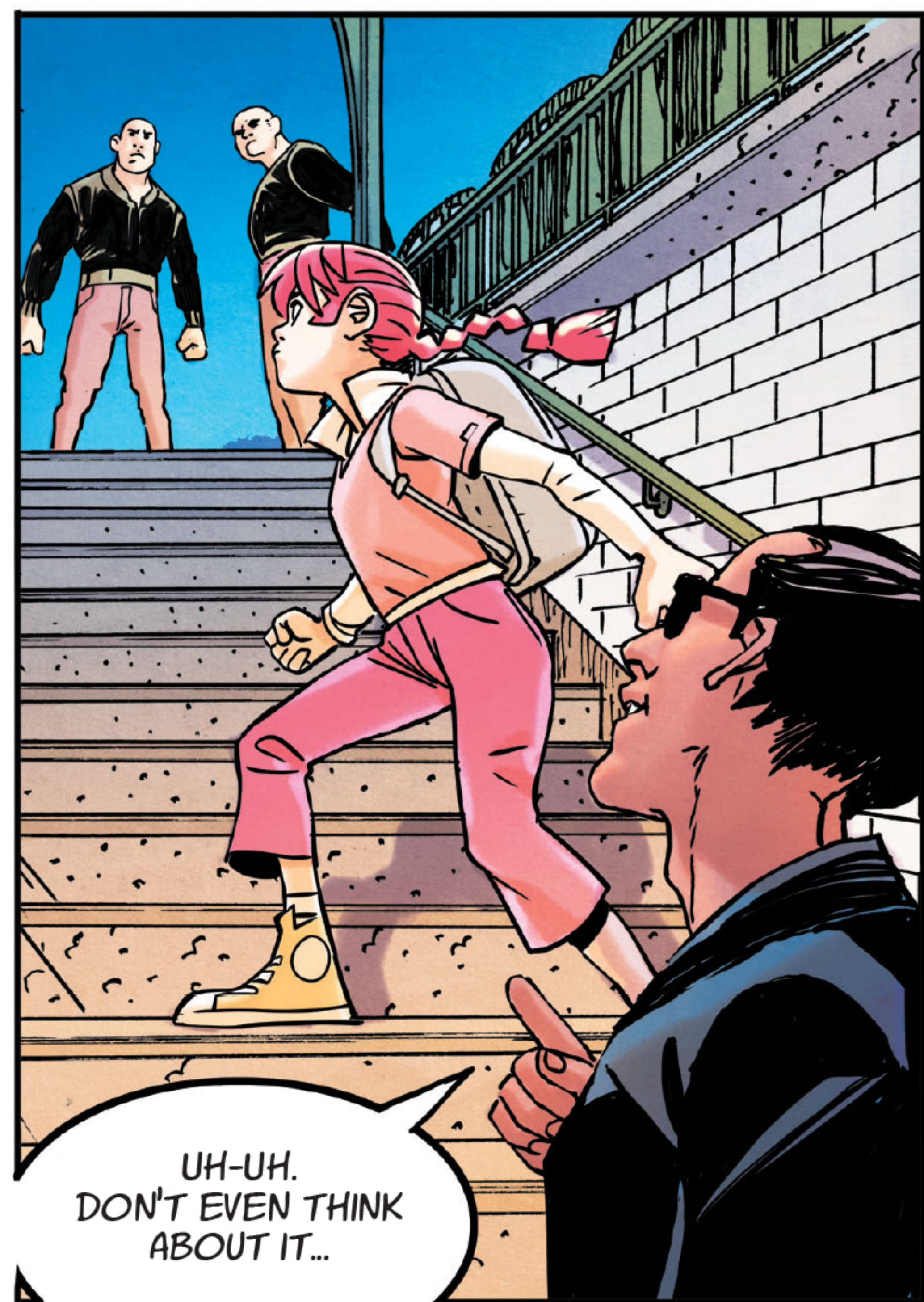
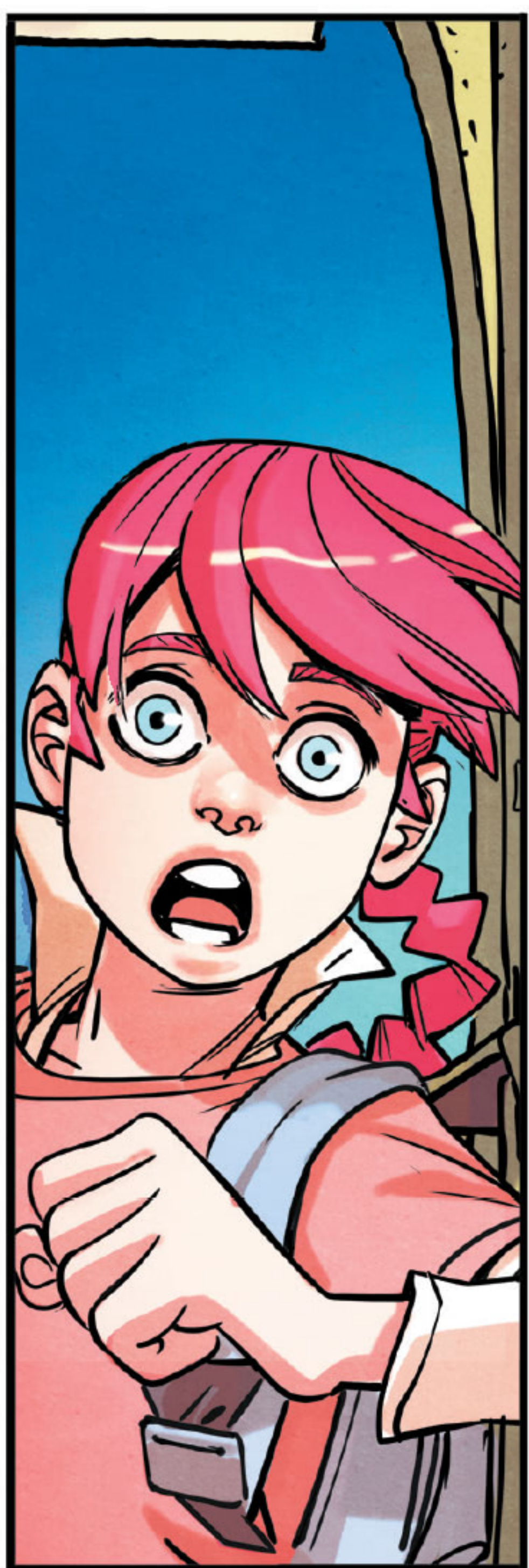
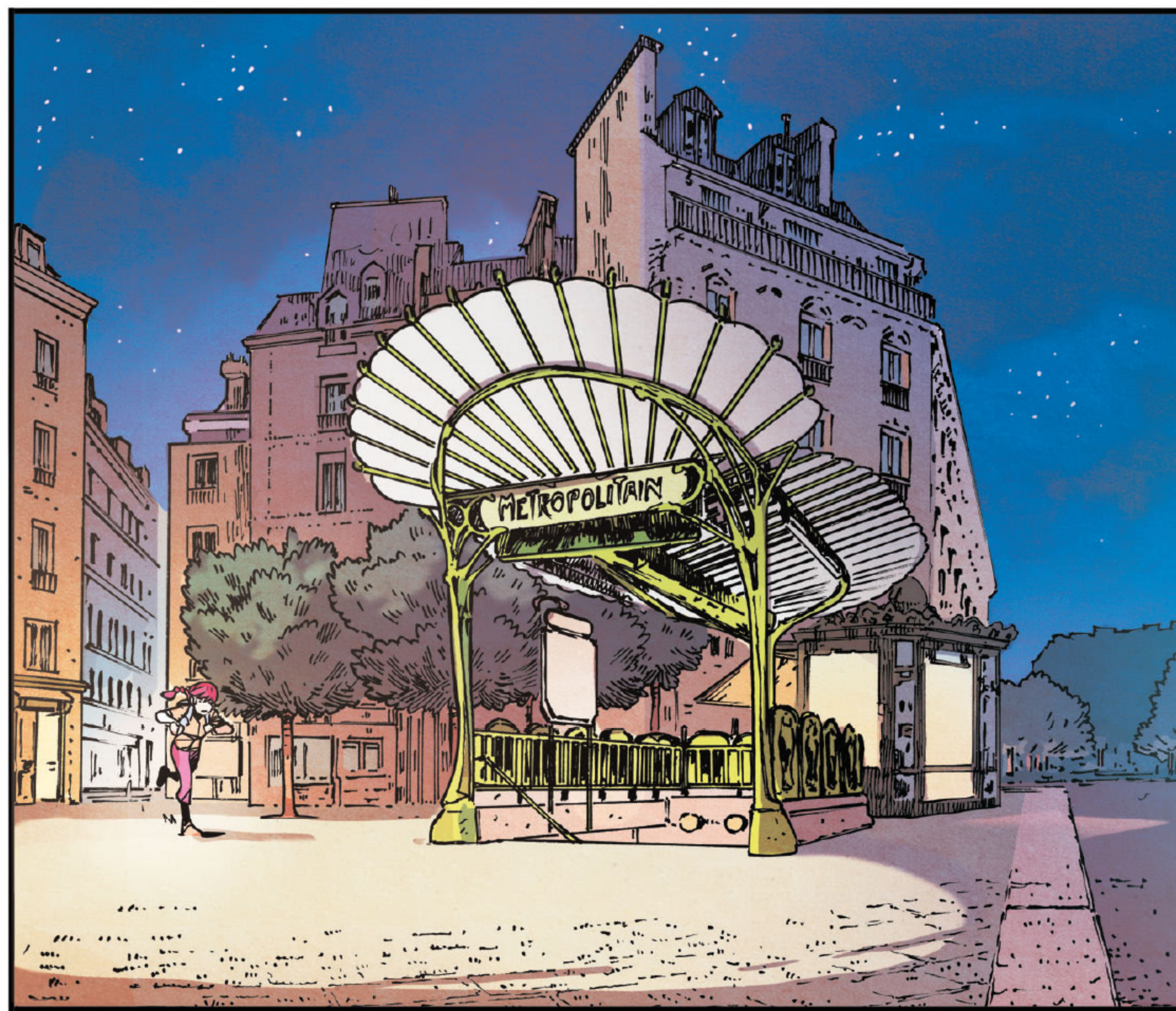
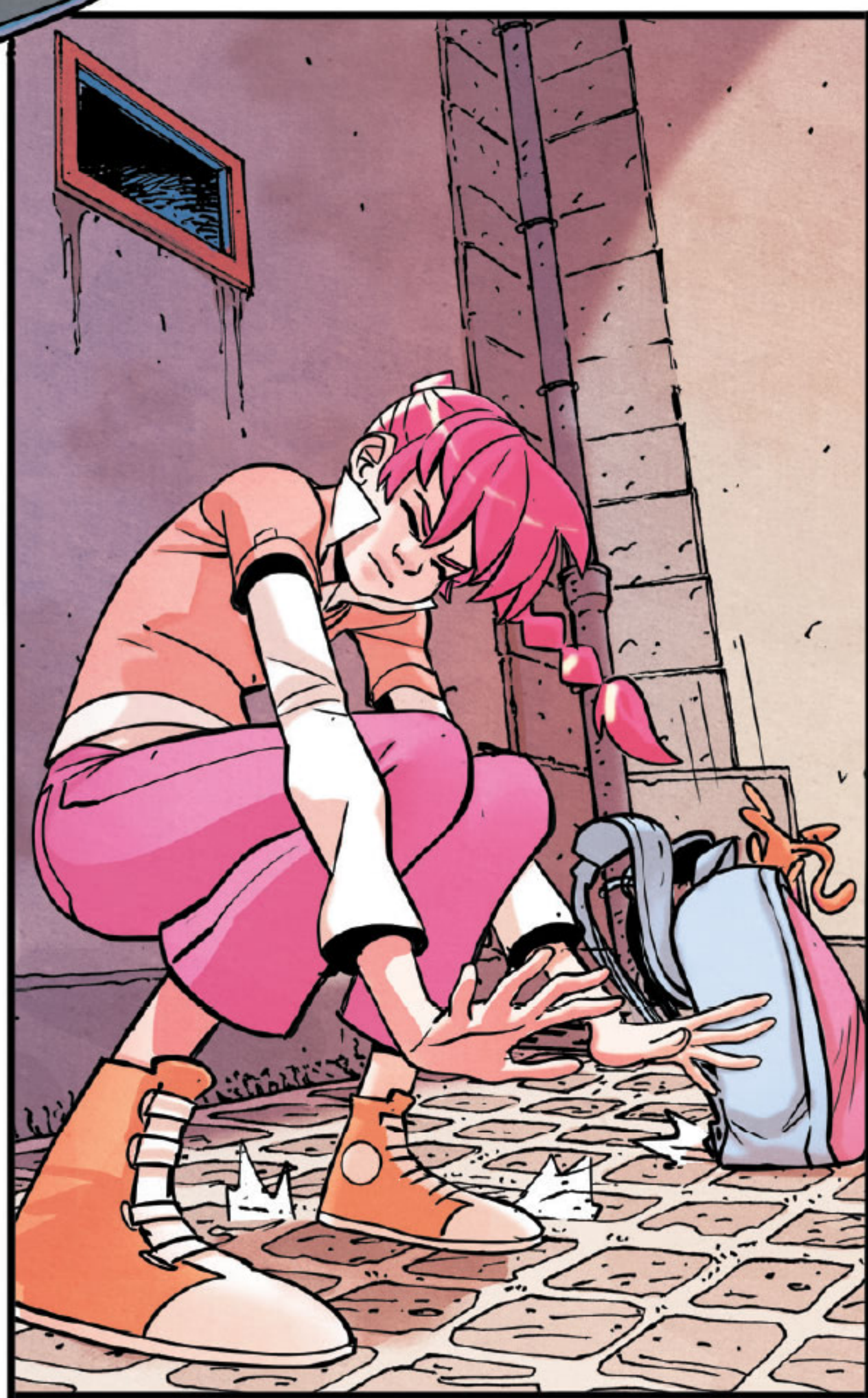
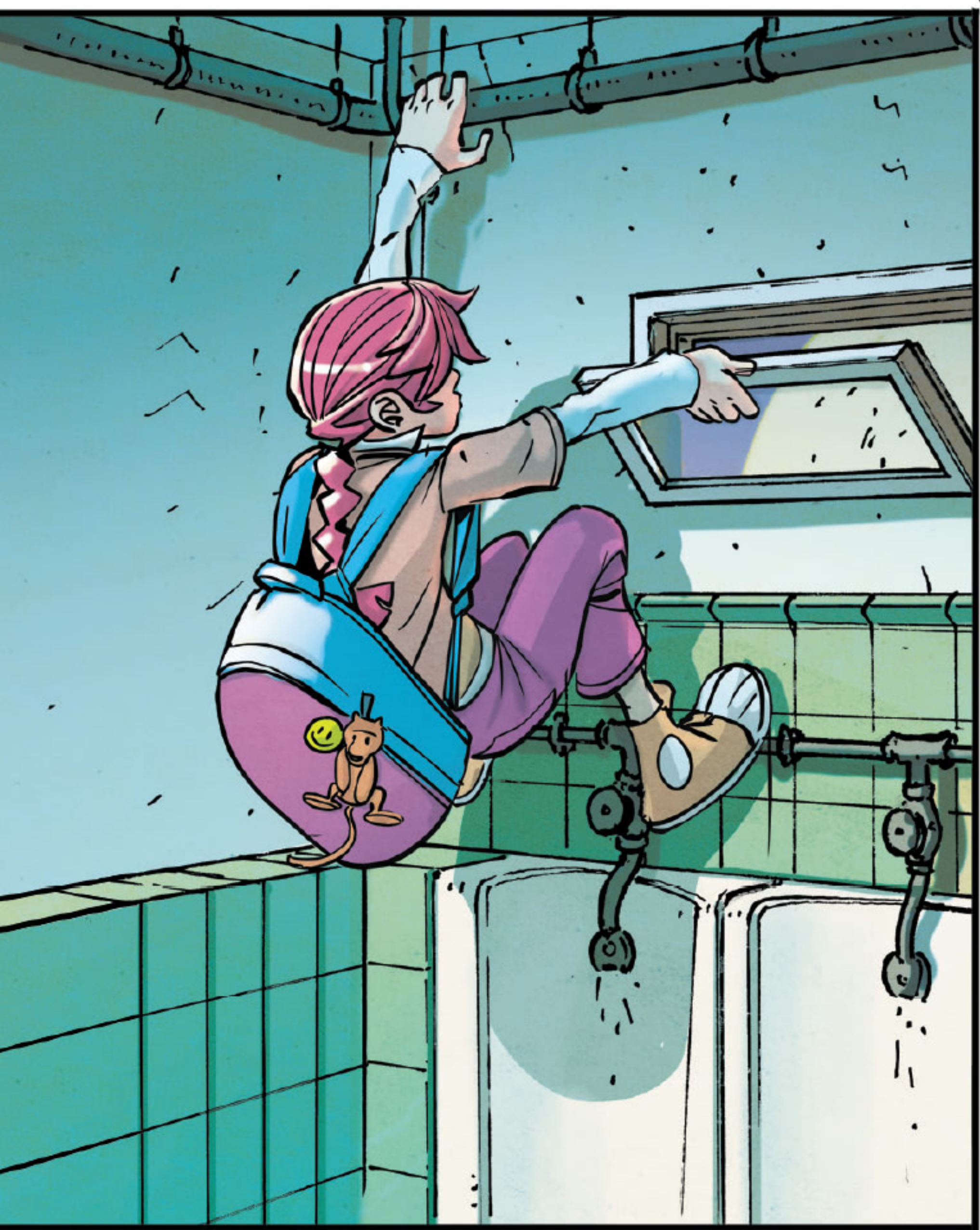
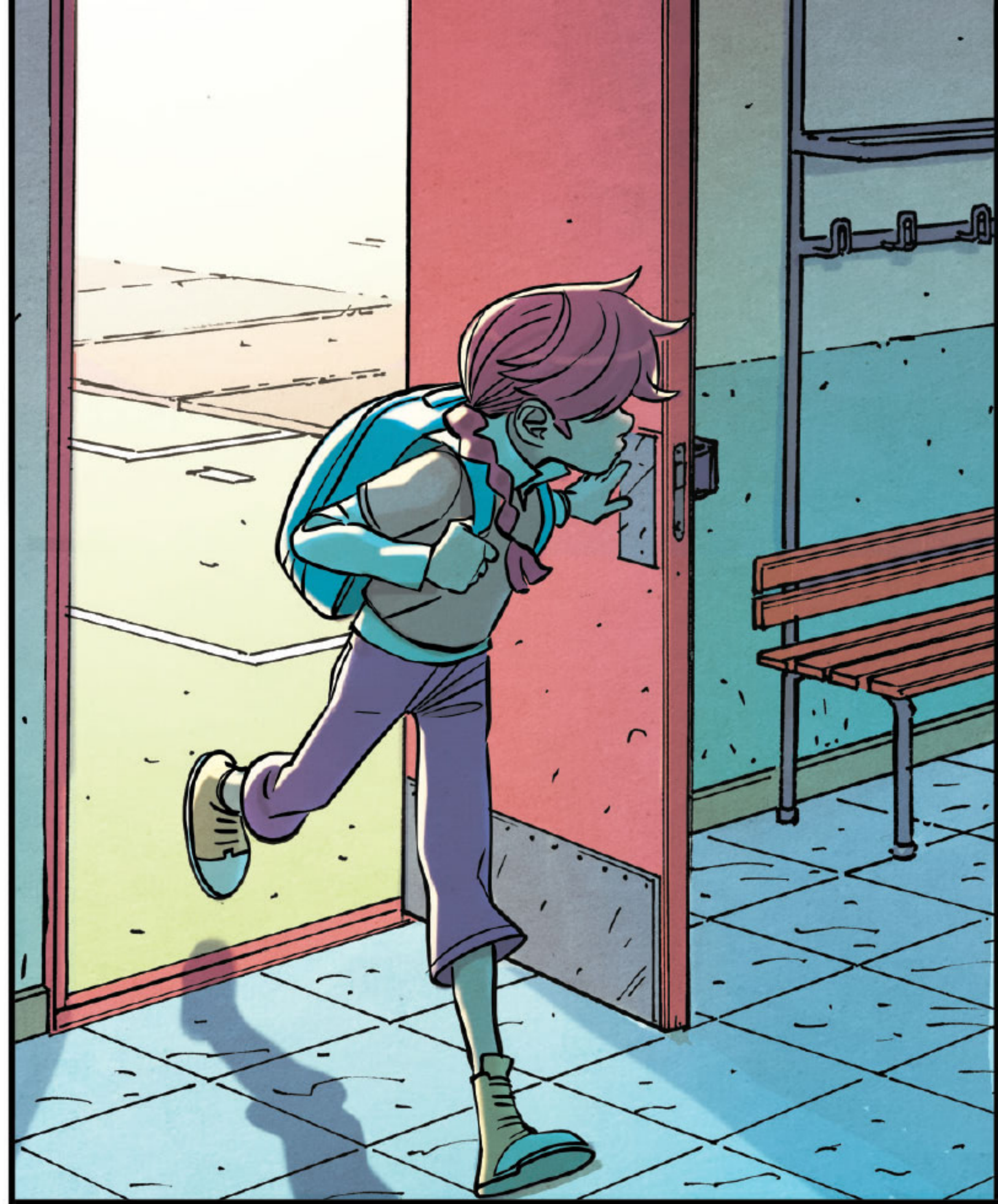
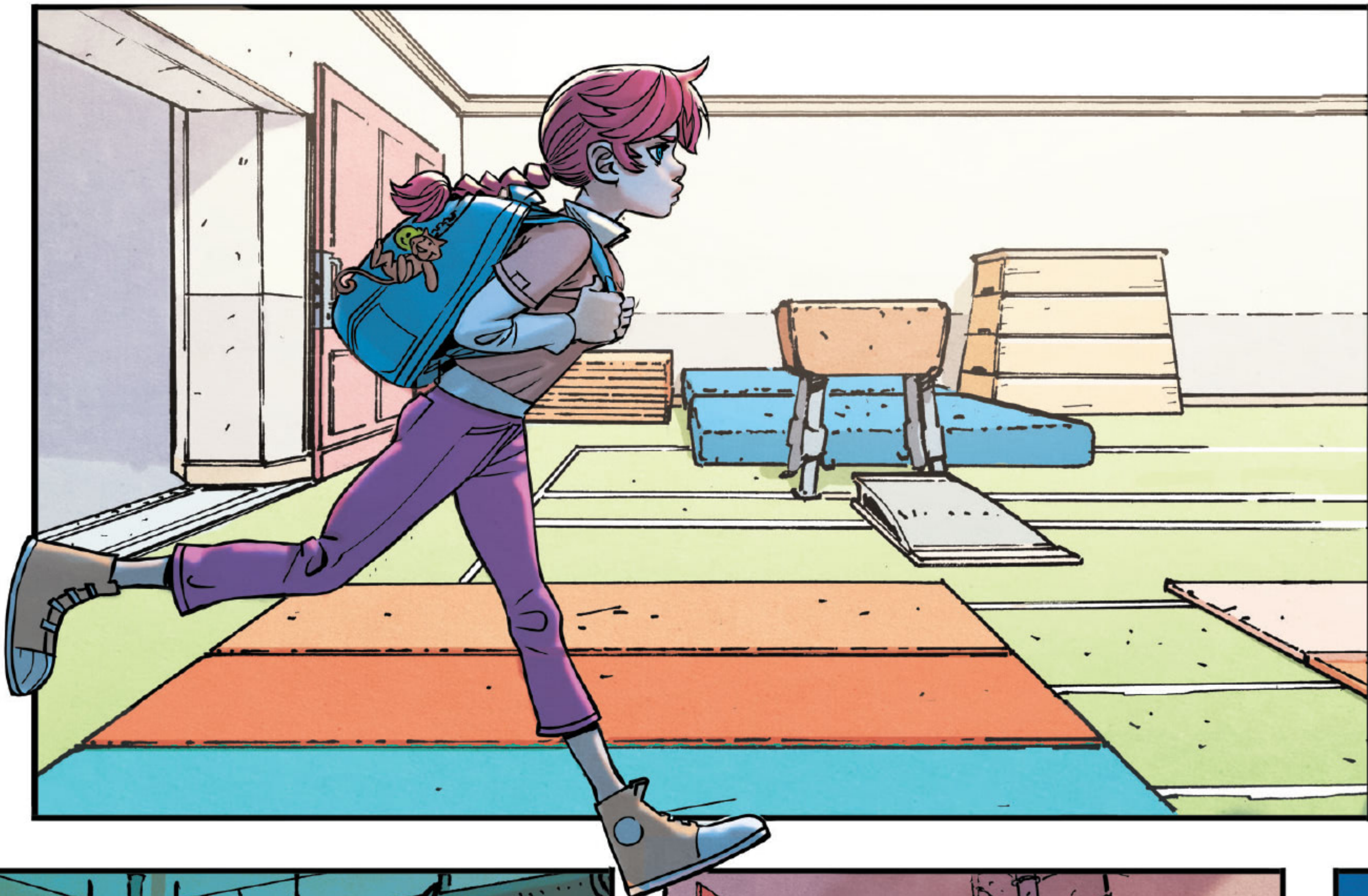
YES, THEY DIDN'T RESPECT THE AGREEMENT I MADE WITH THEM.

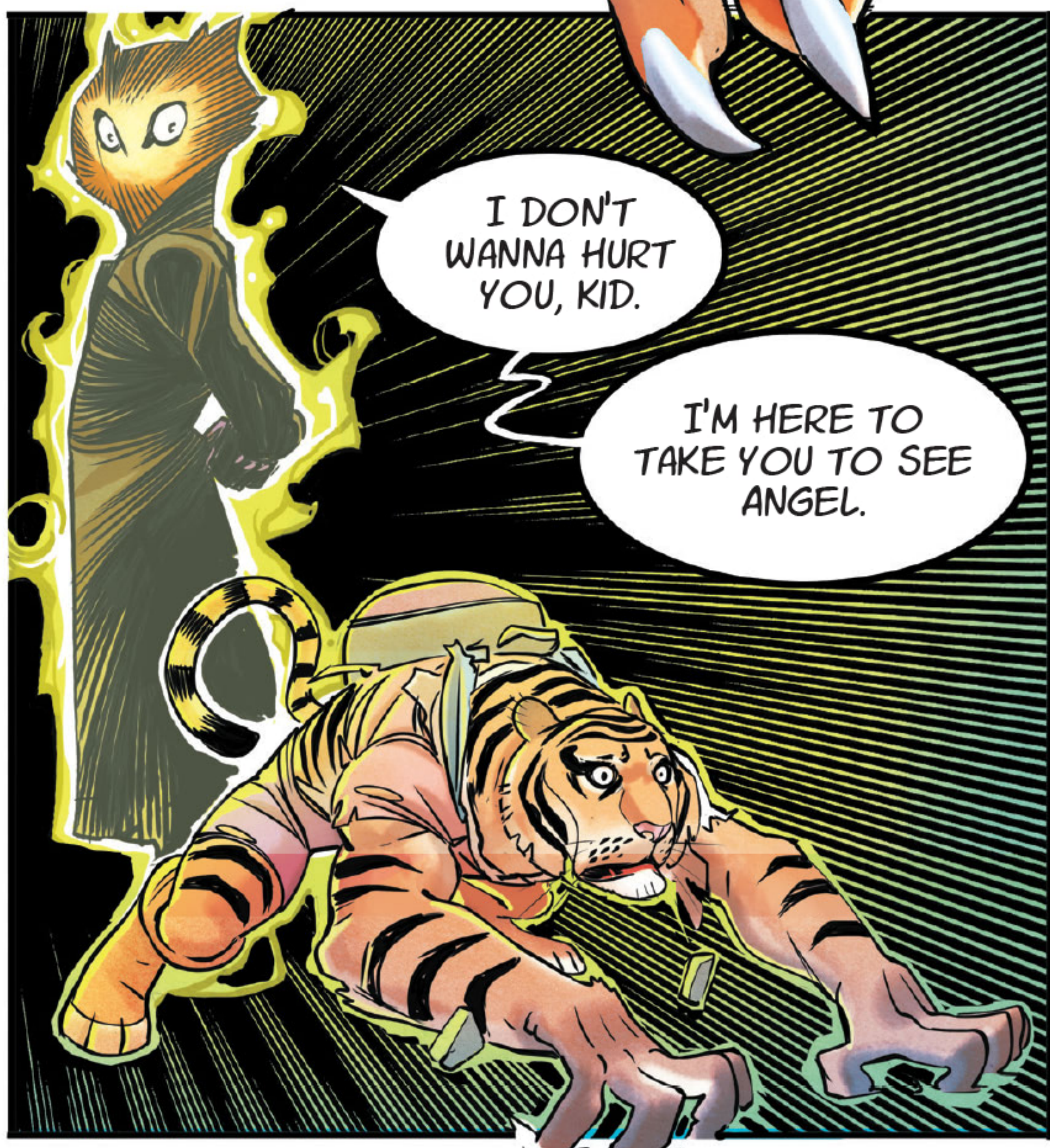










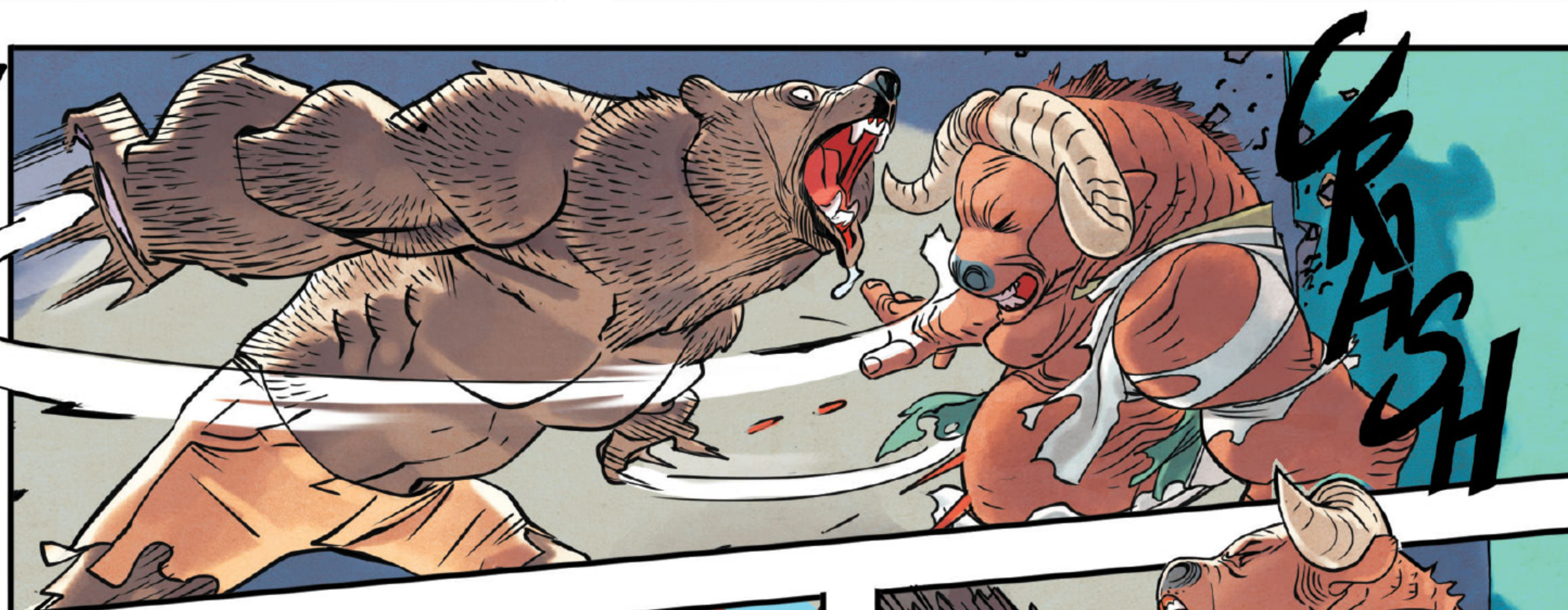
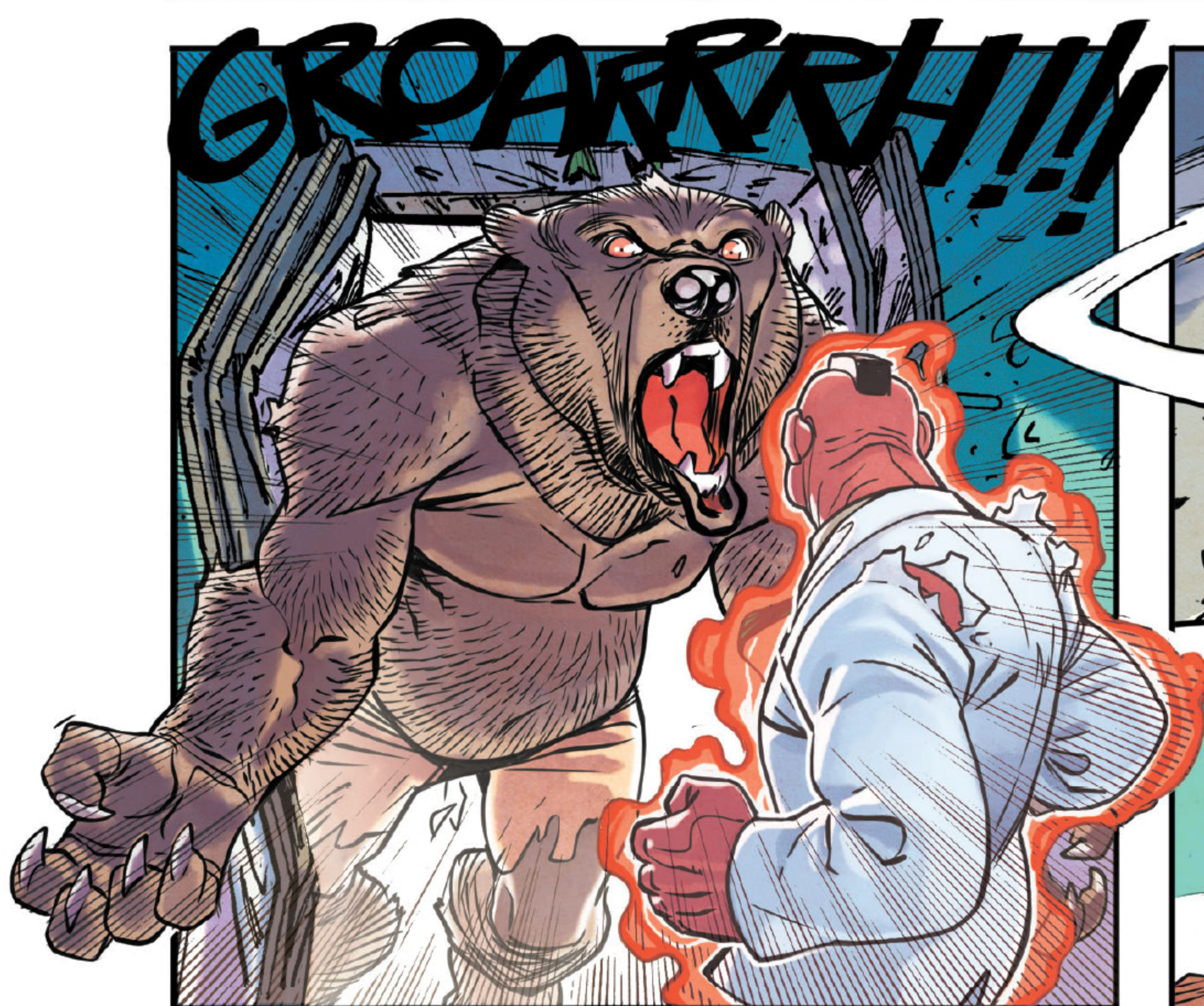
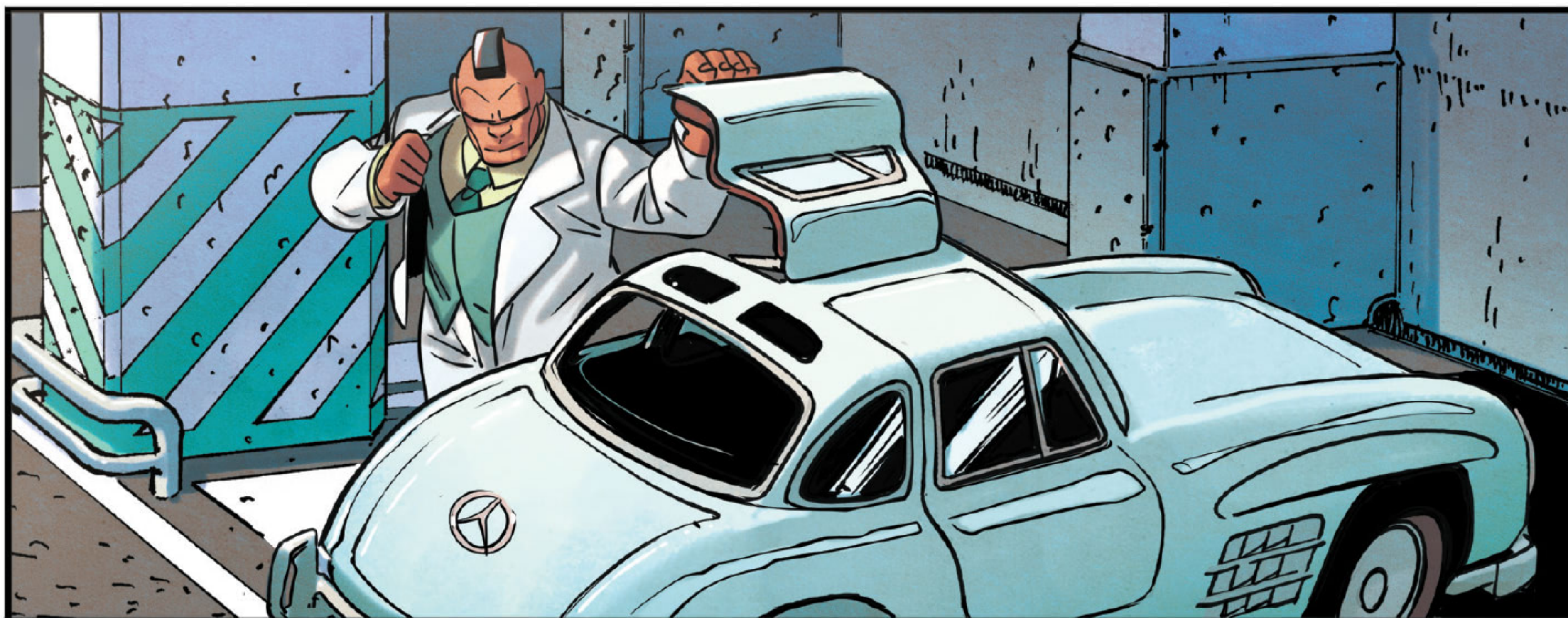
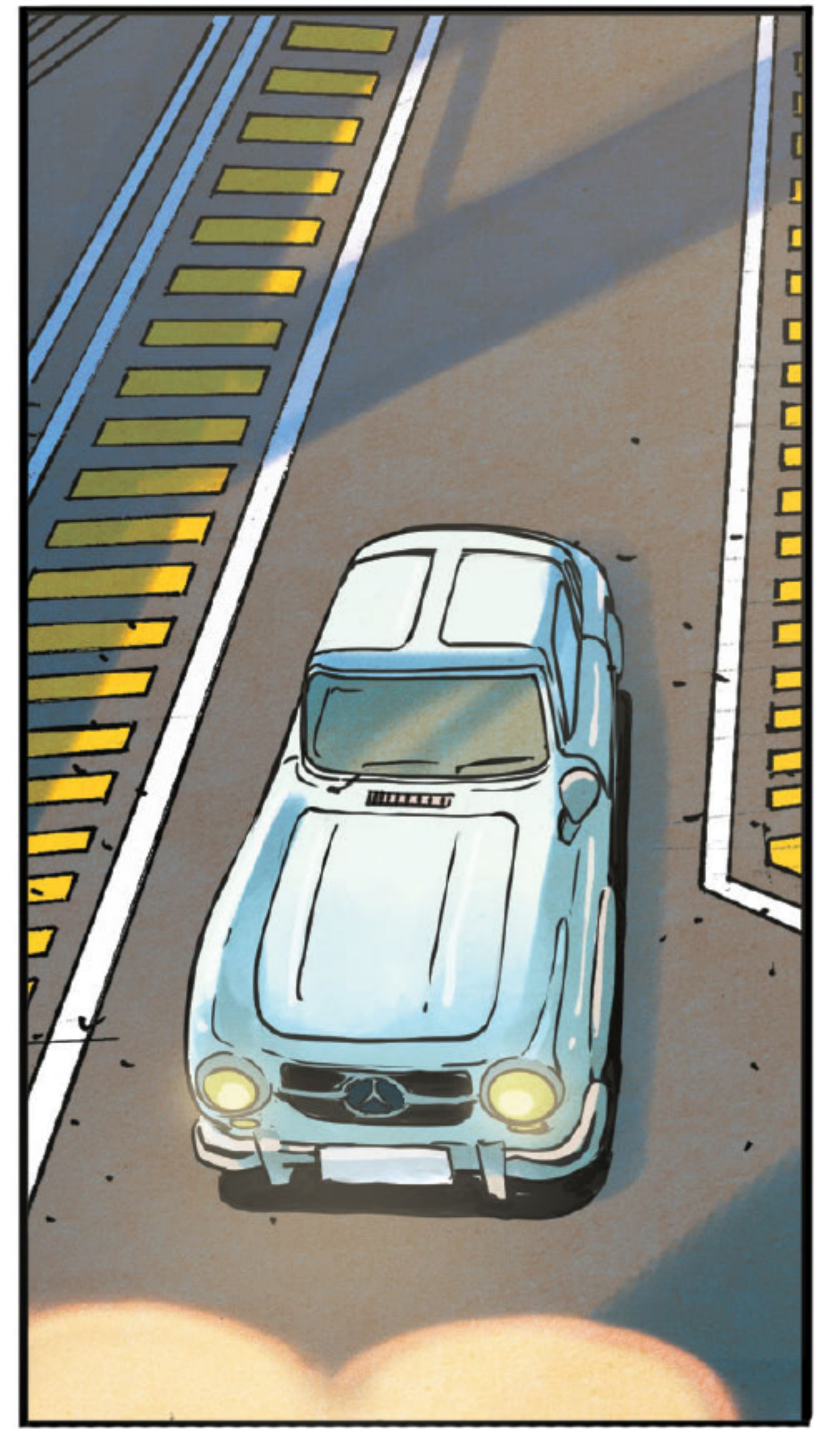
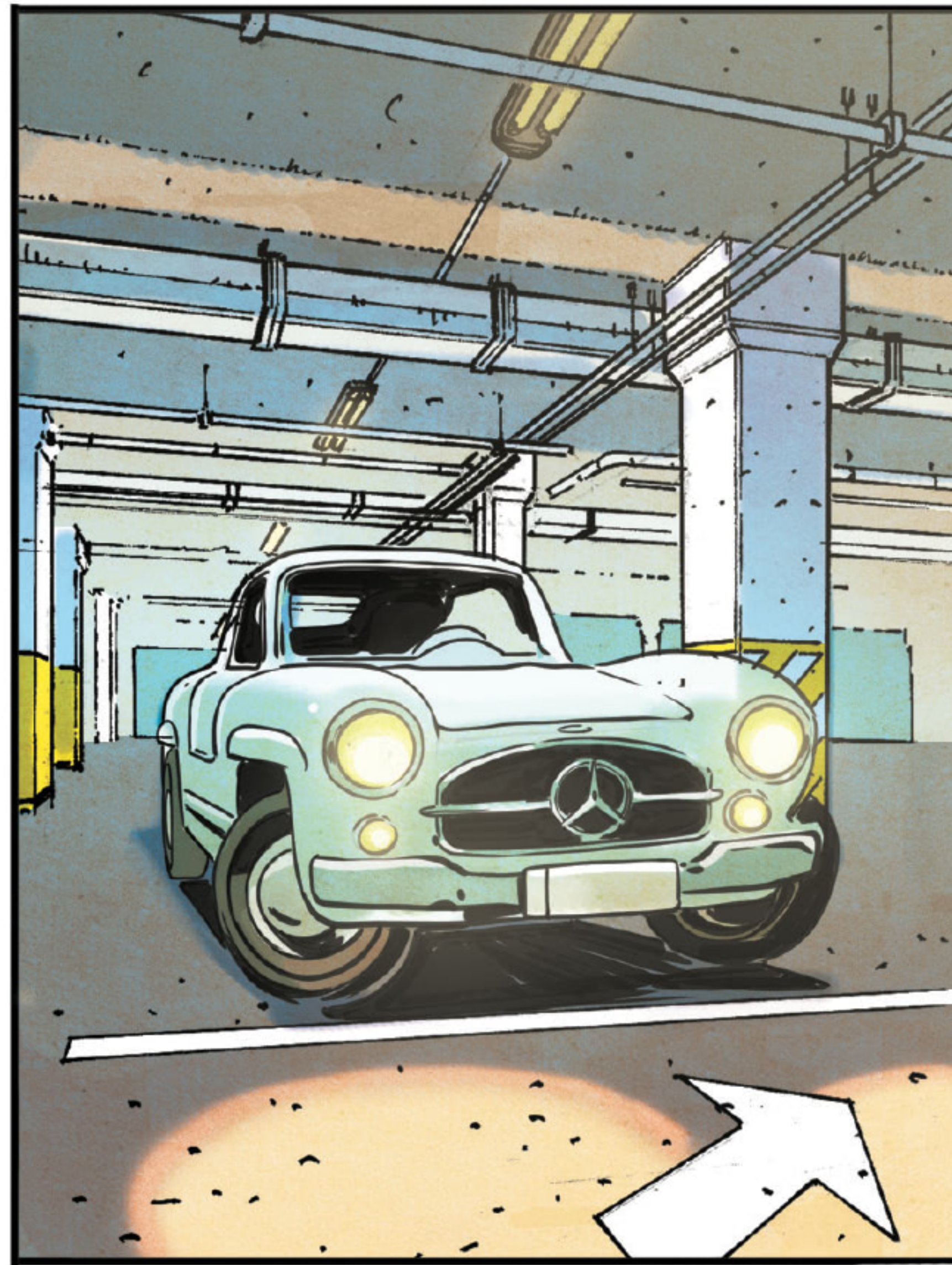
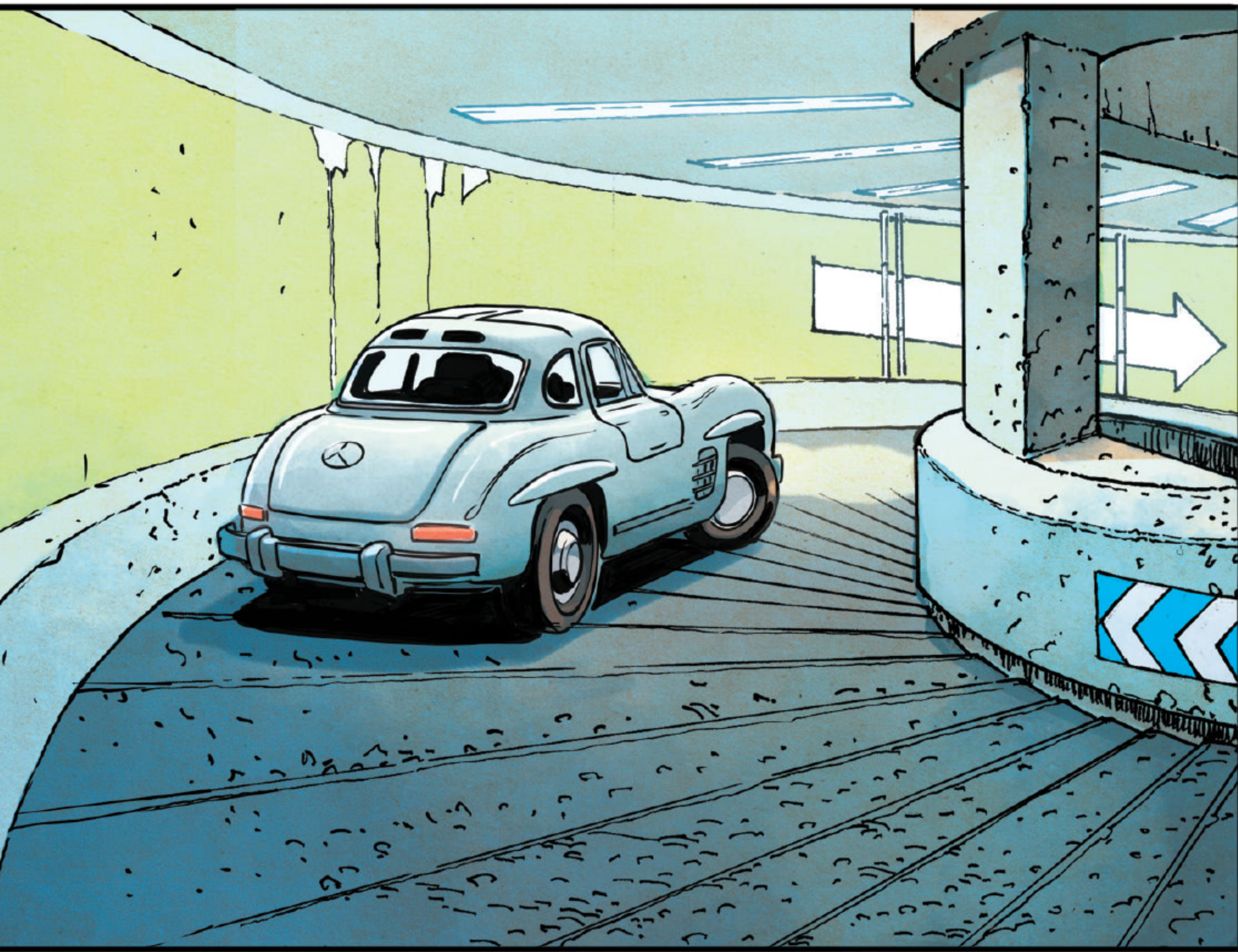


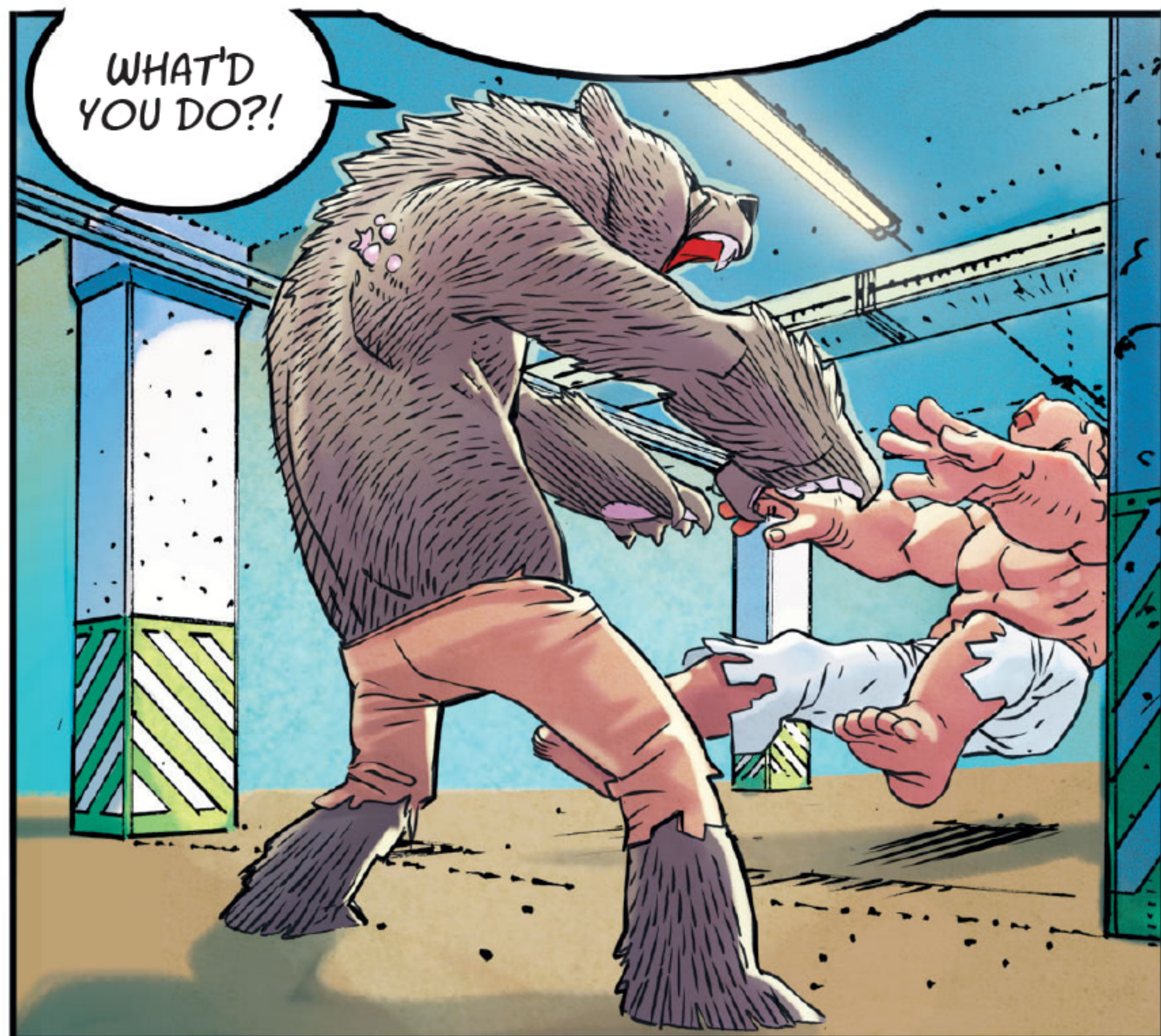
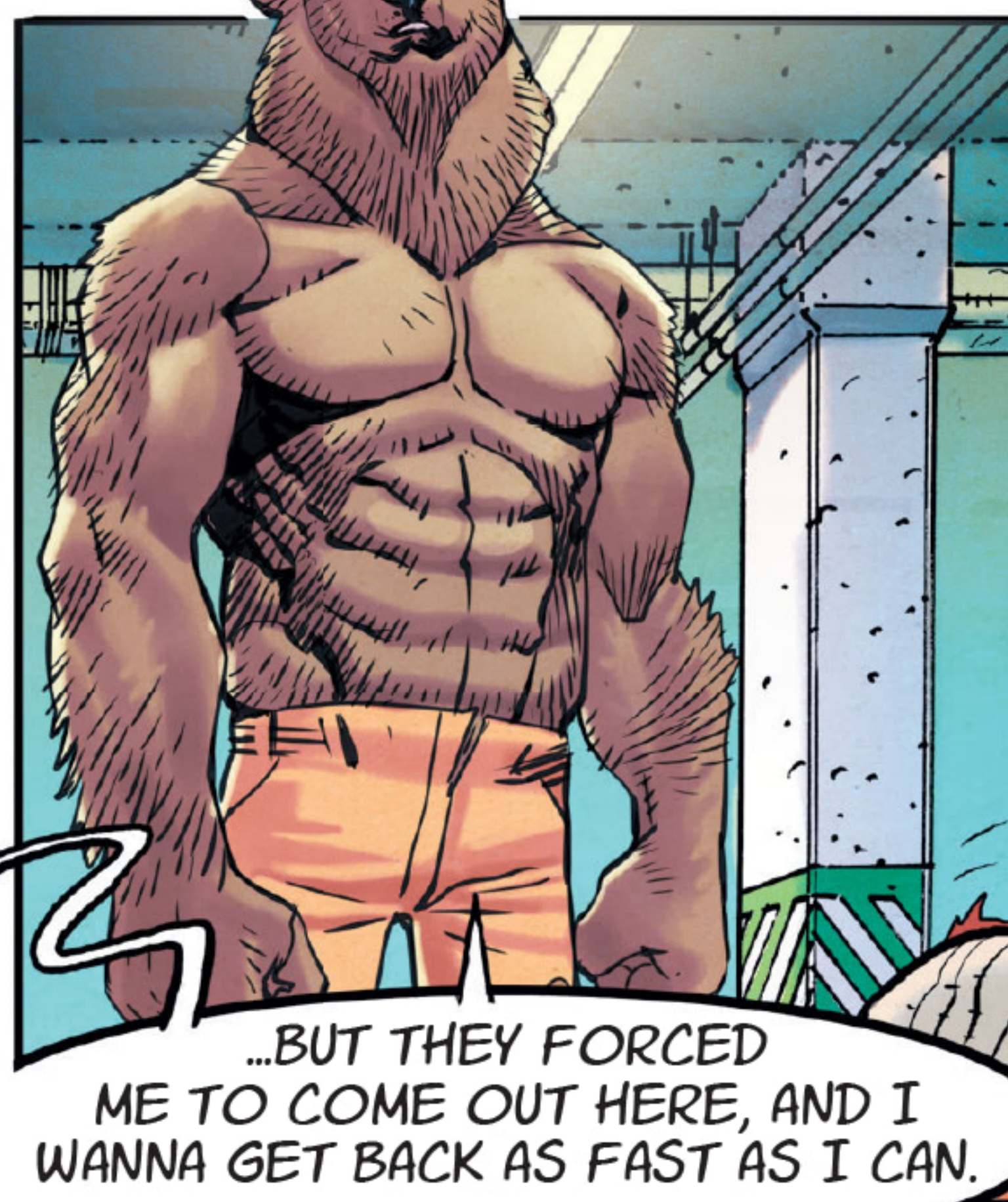
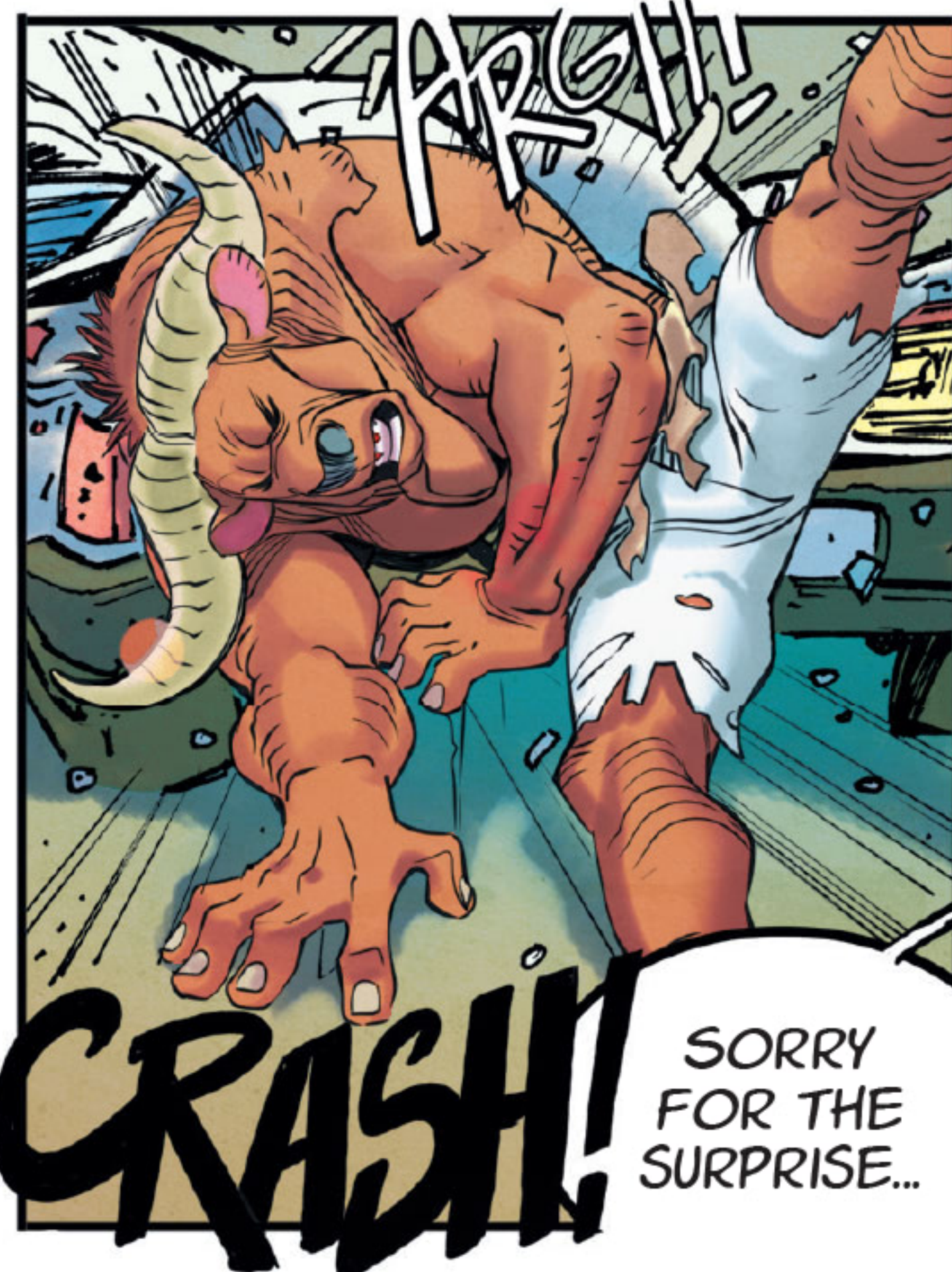
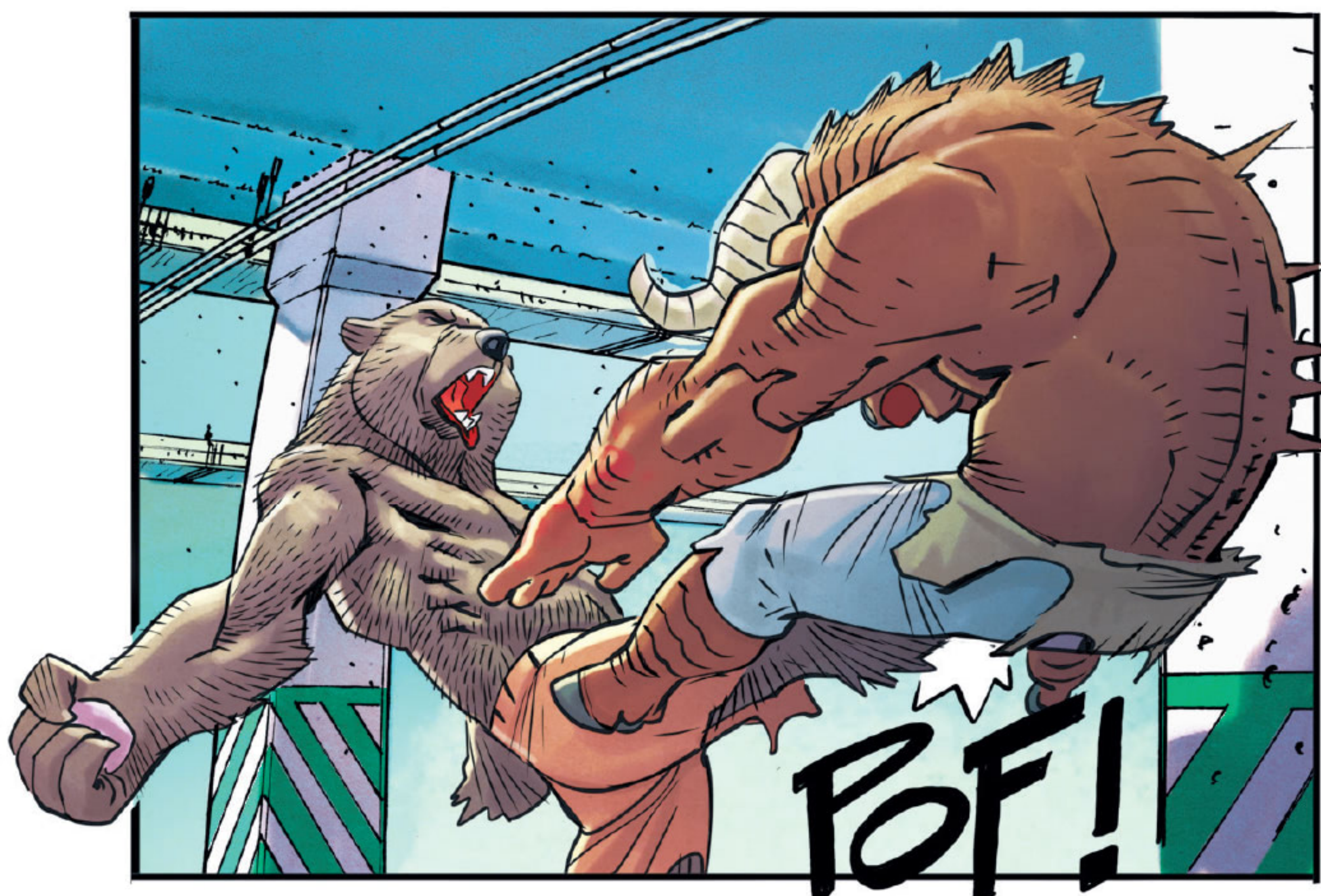
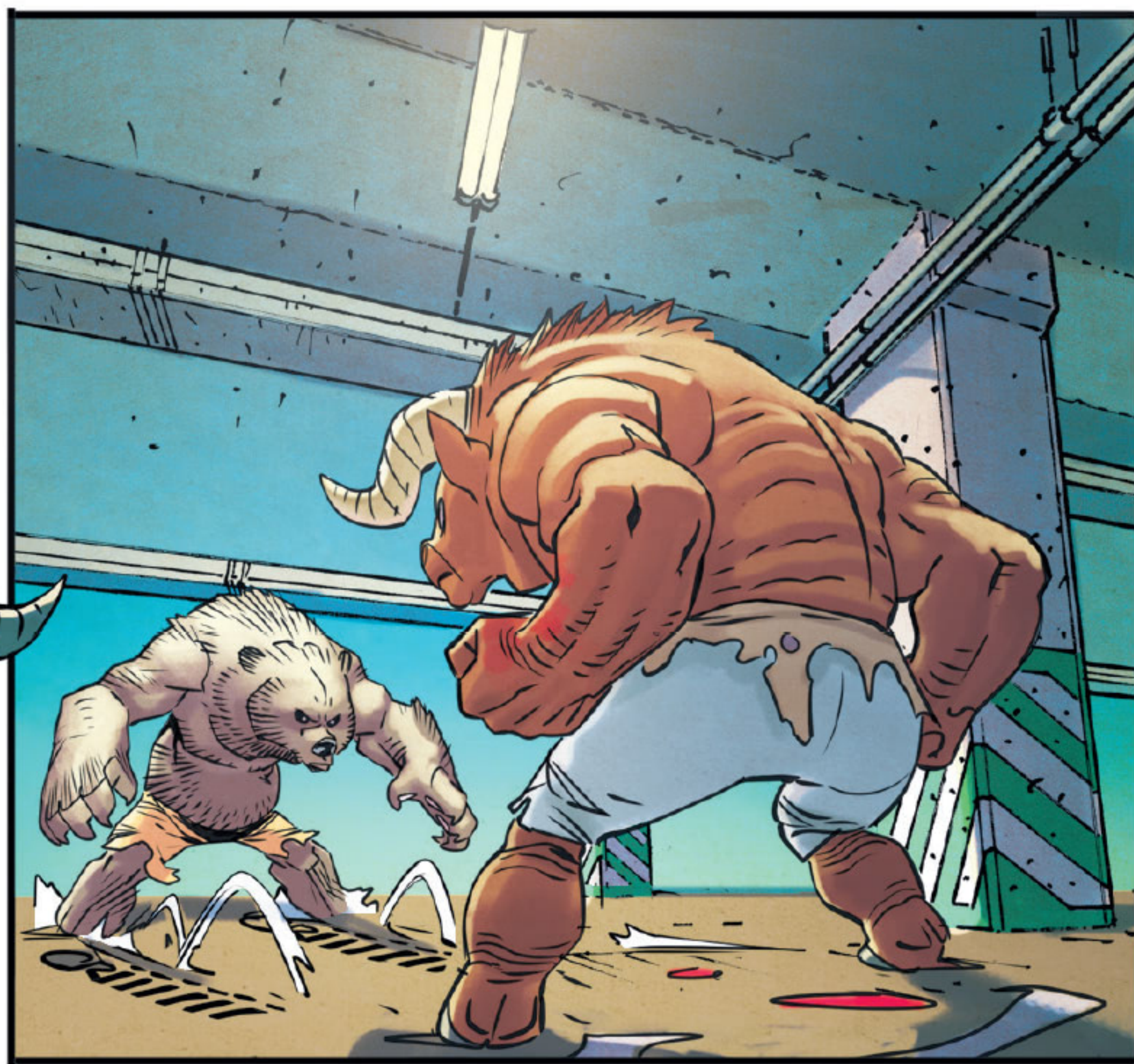
C'MON. WHO ELSE COULD HAVE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU?

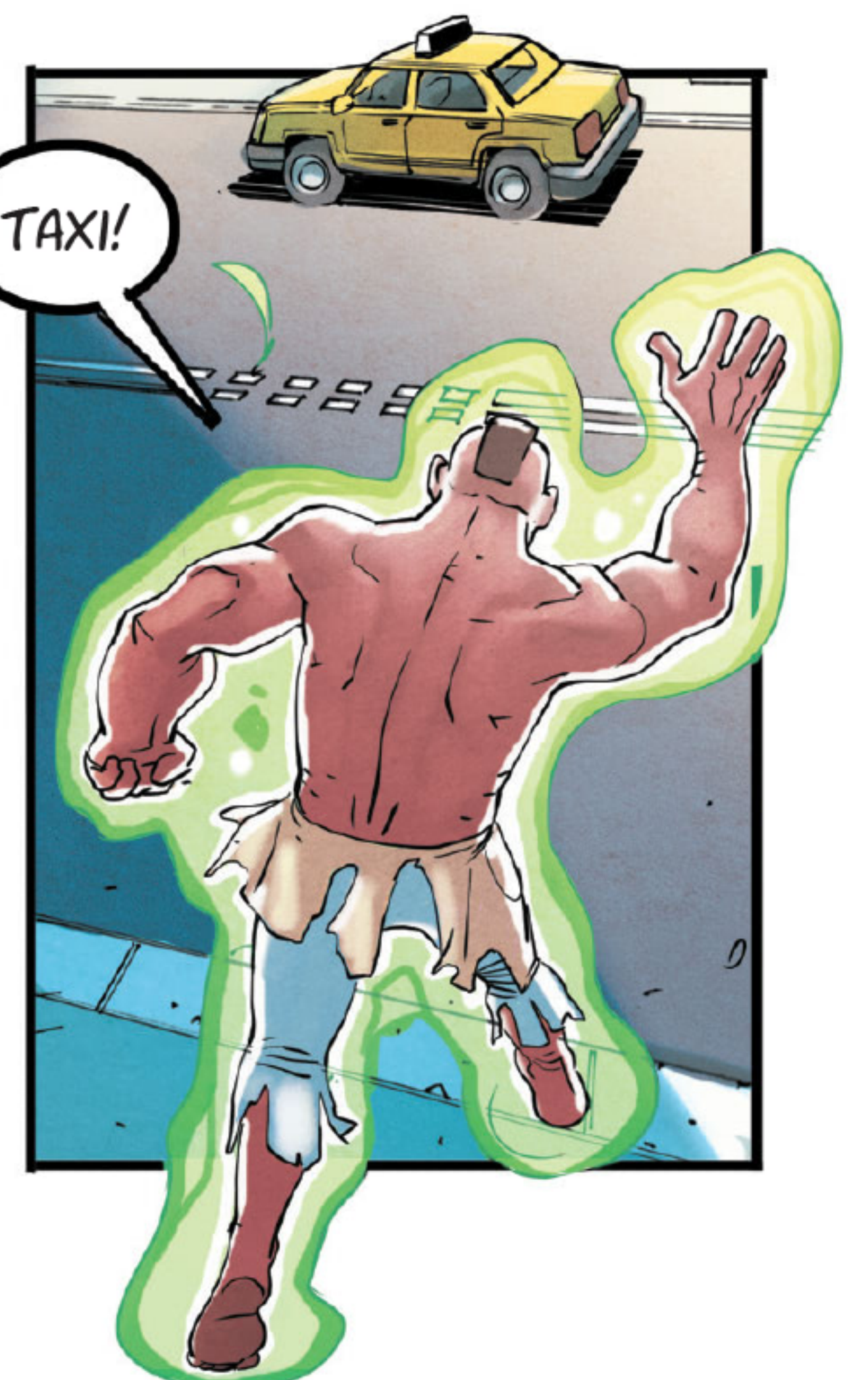
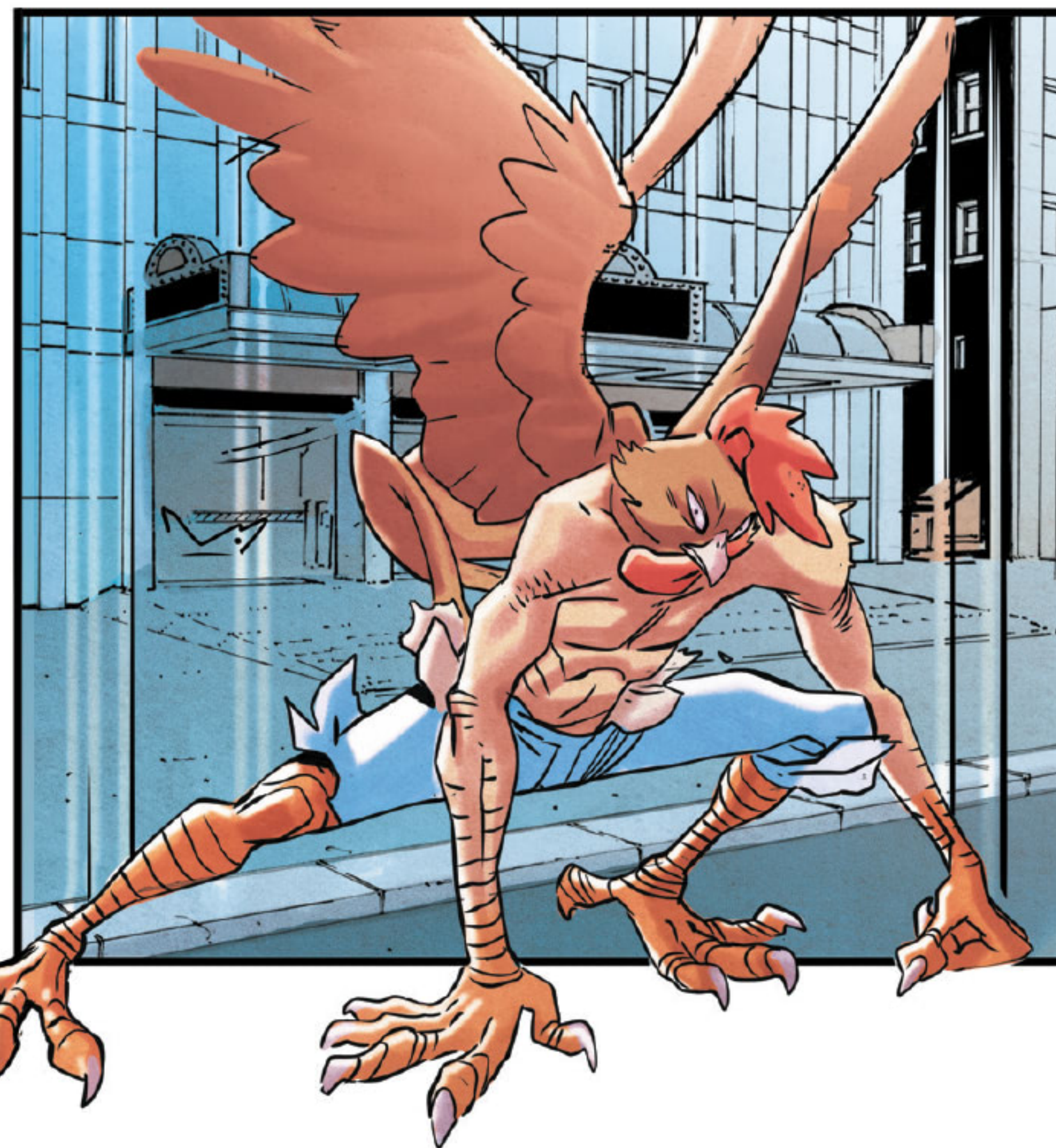
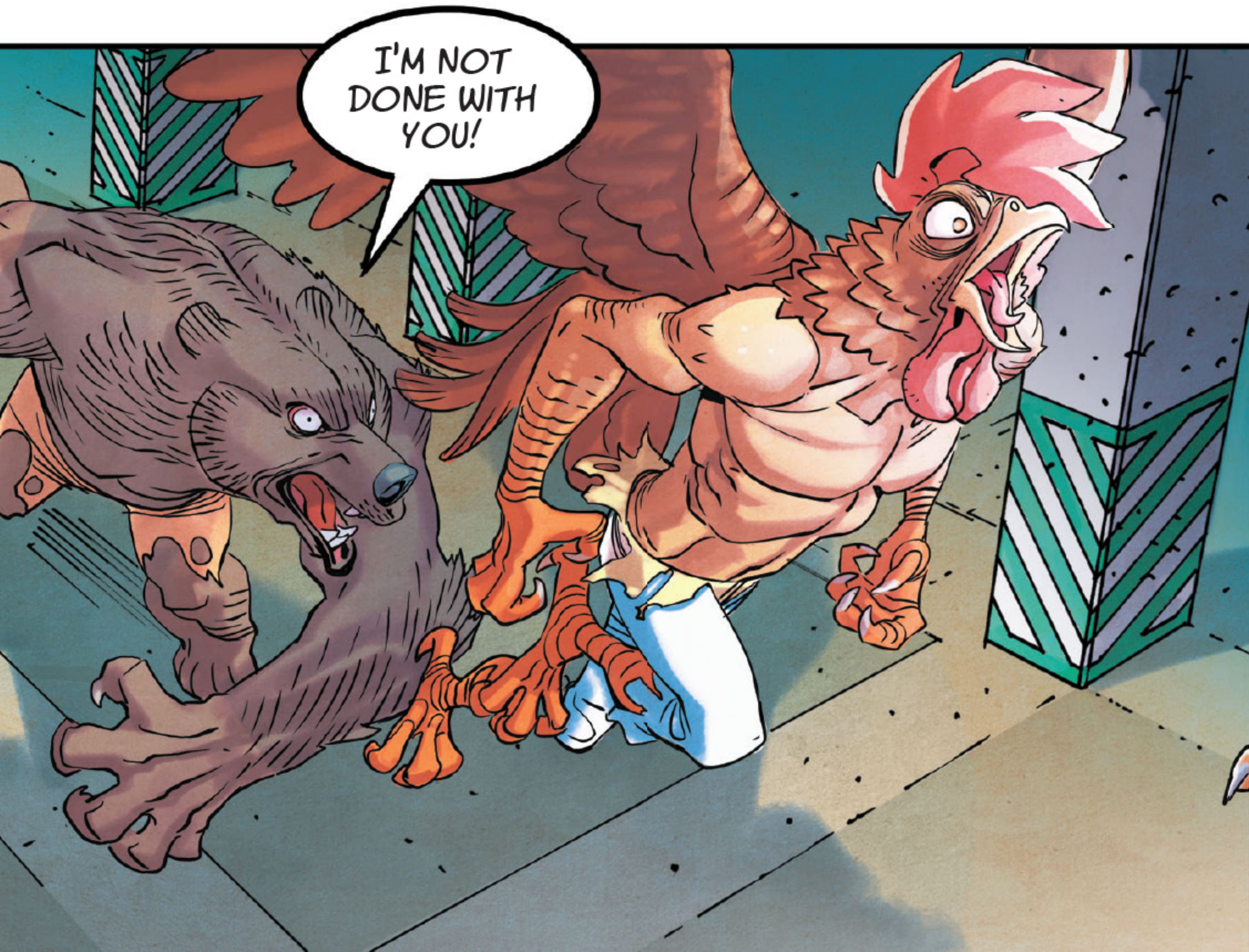
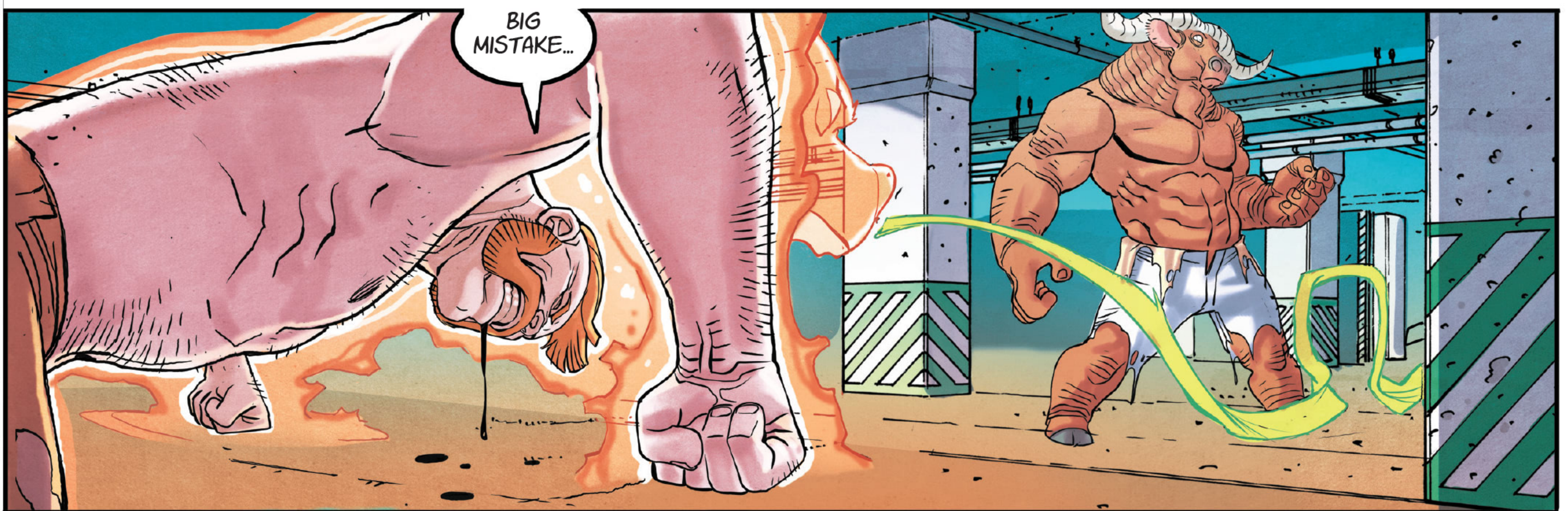
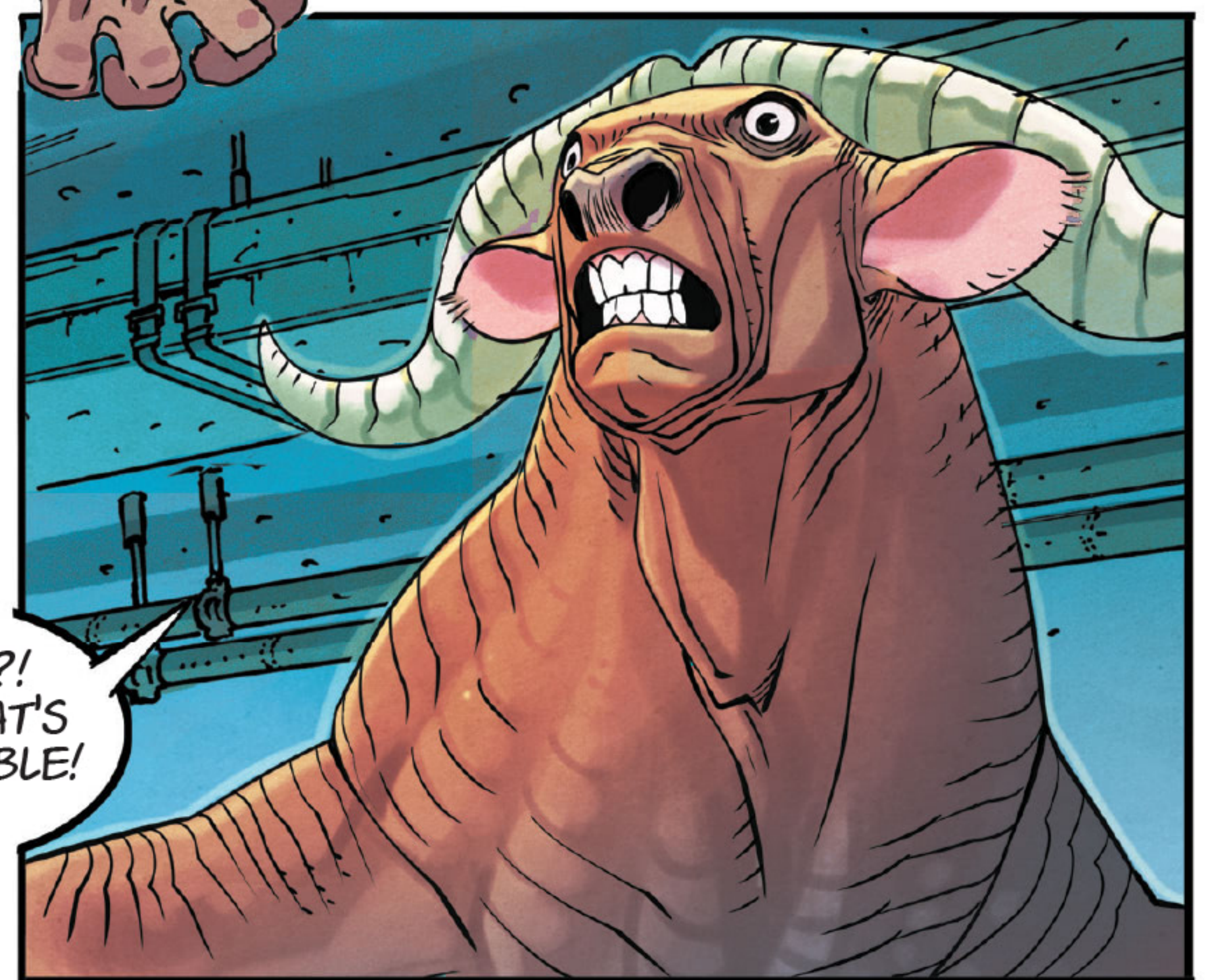
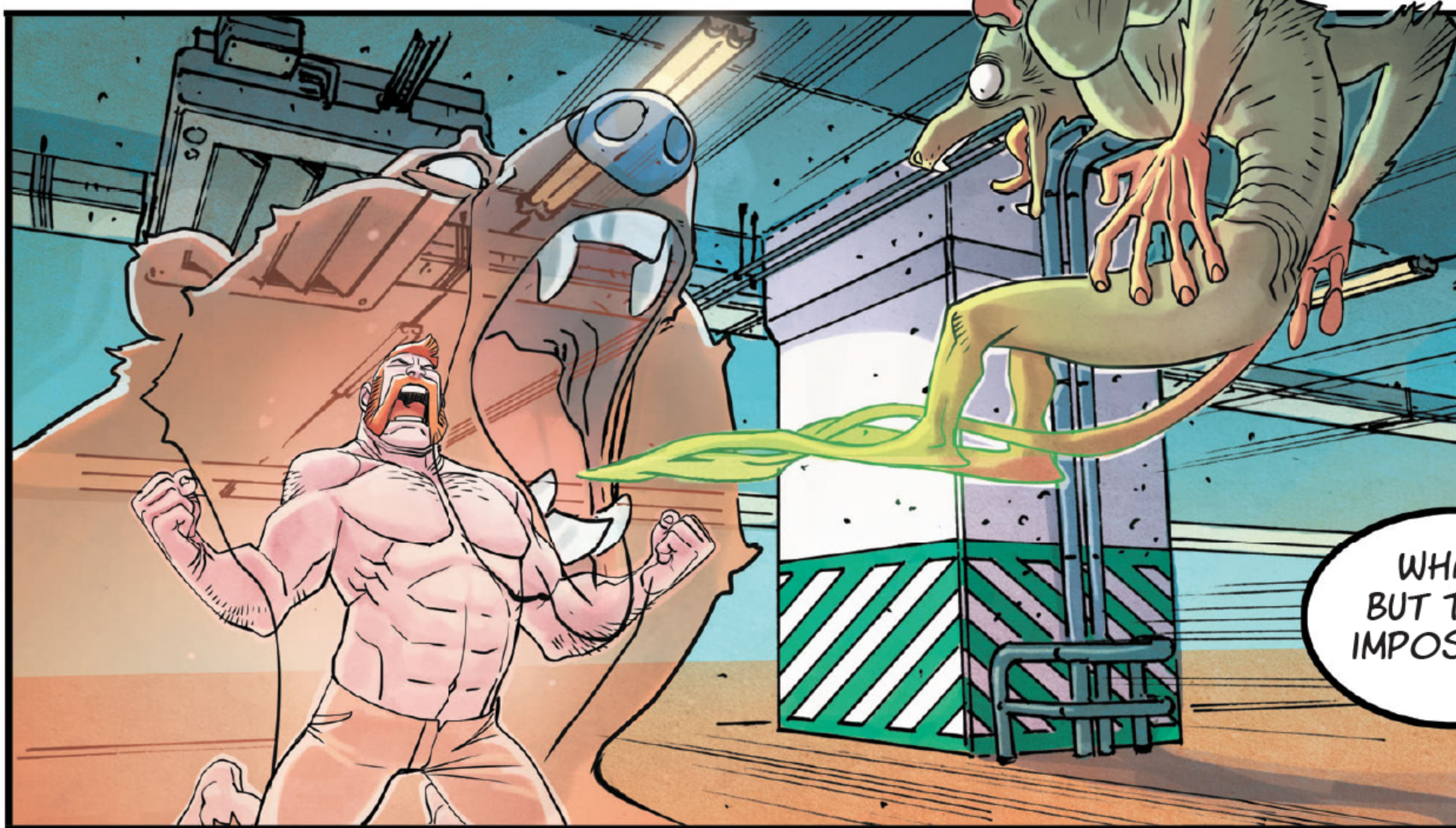
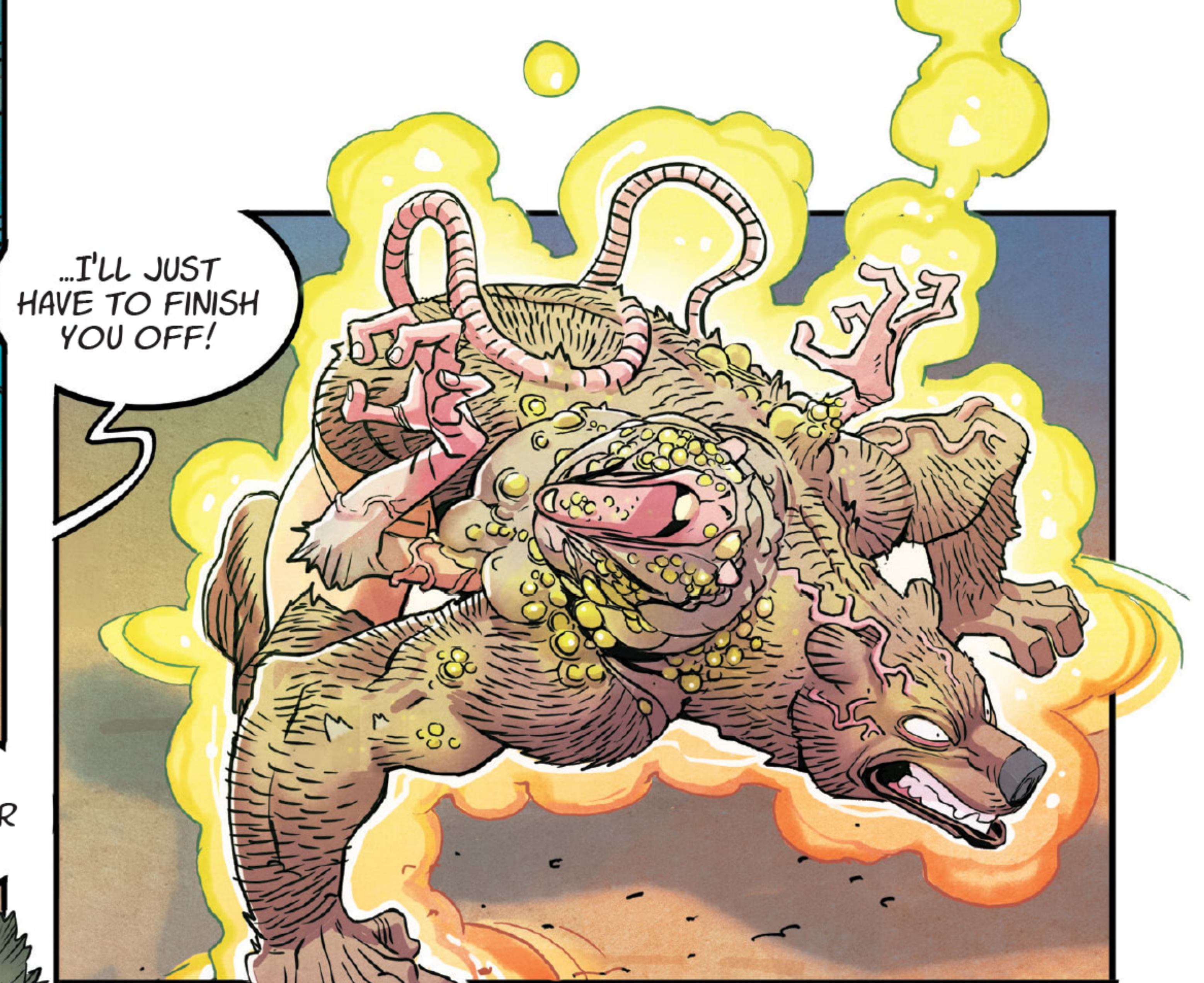


BESIDES, I'VE GOT POWERS, TOO....

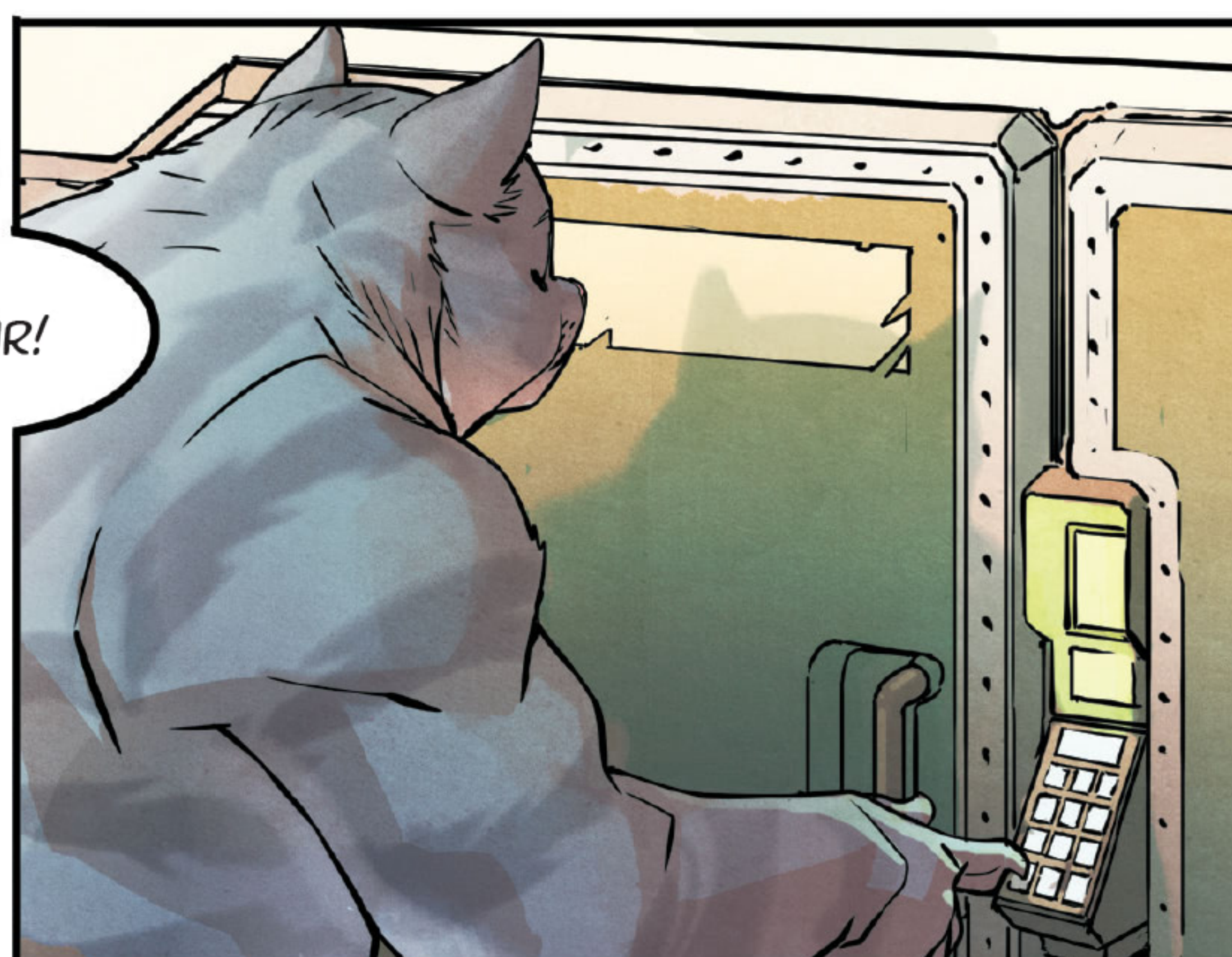
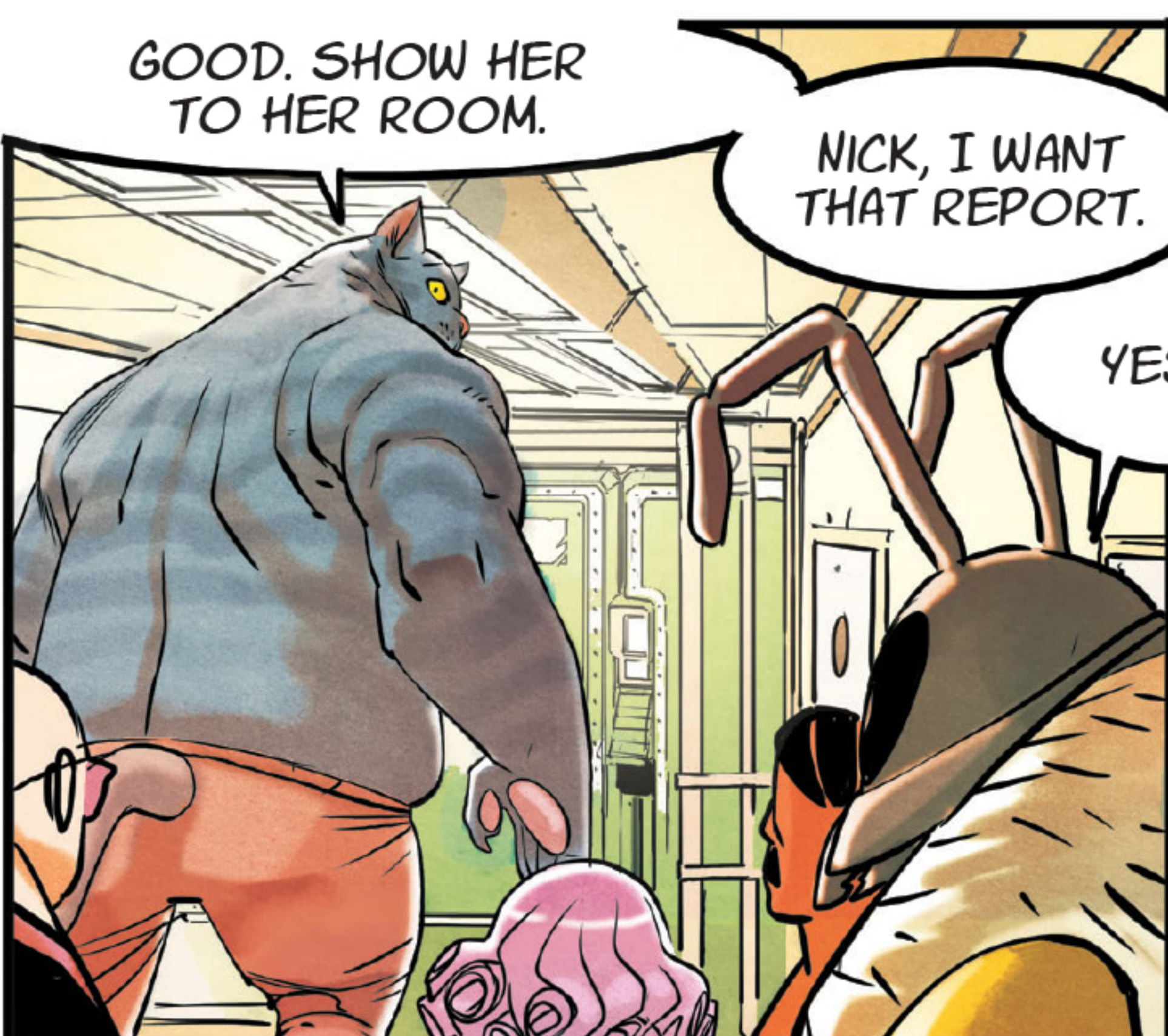
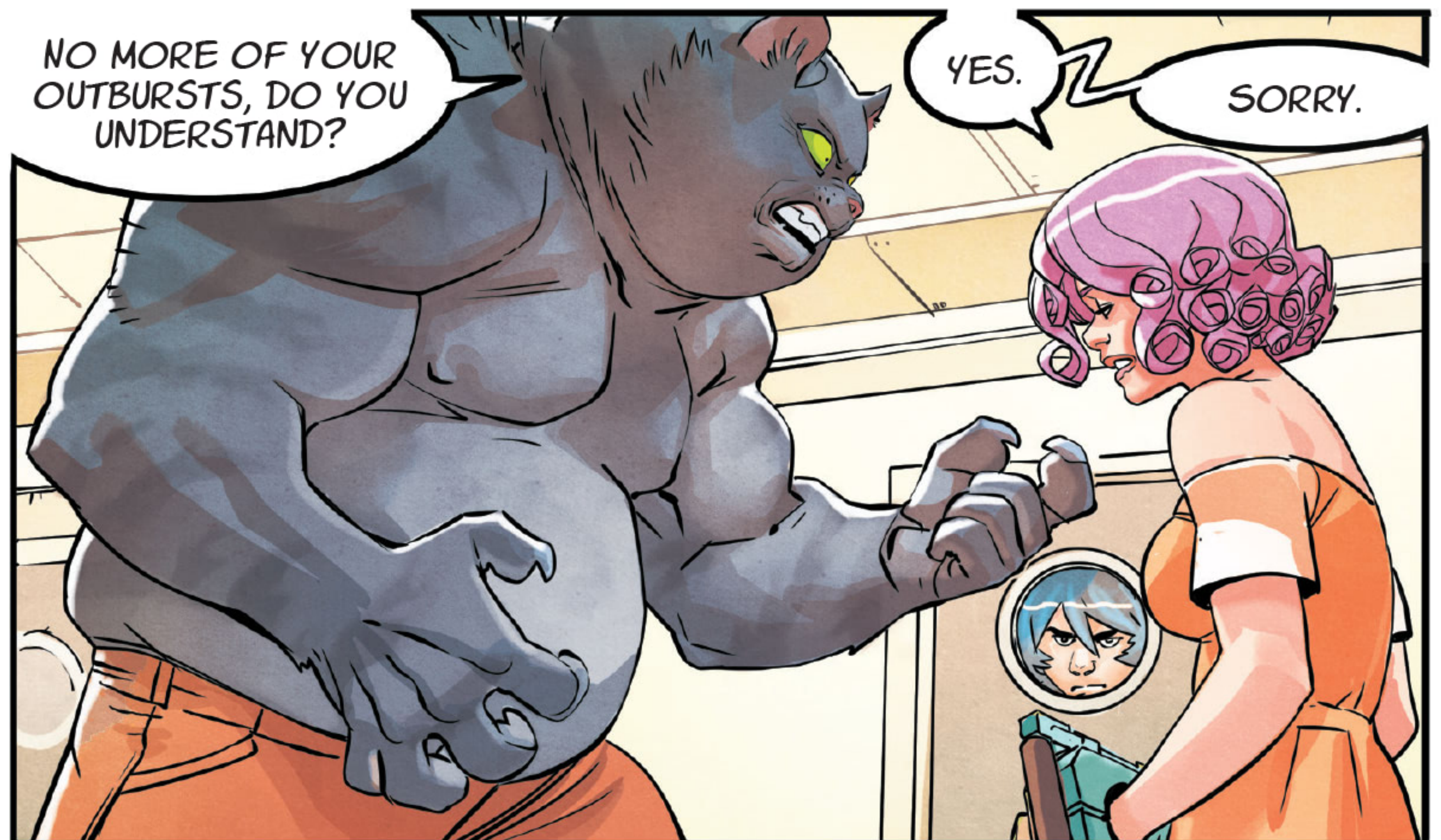
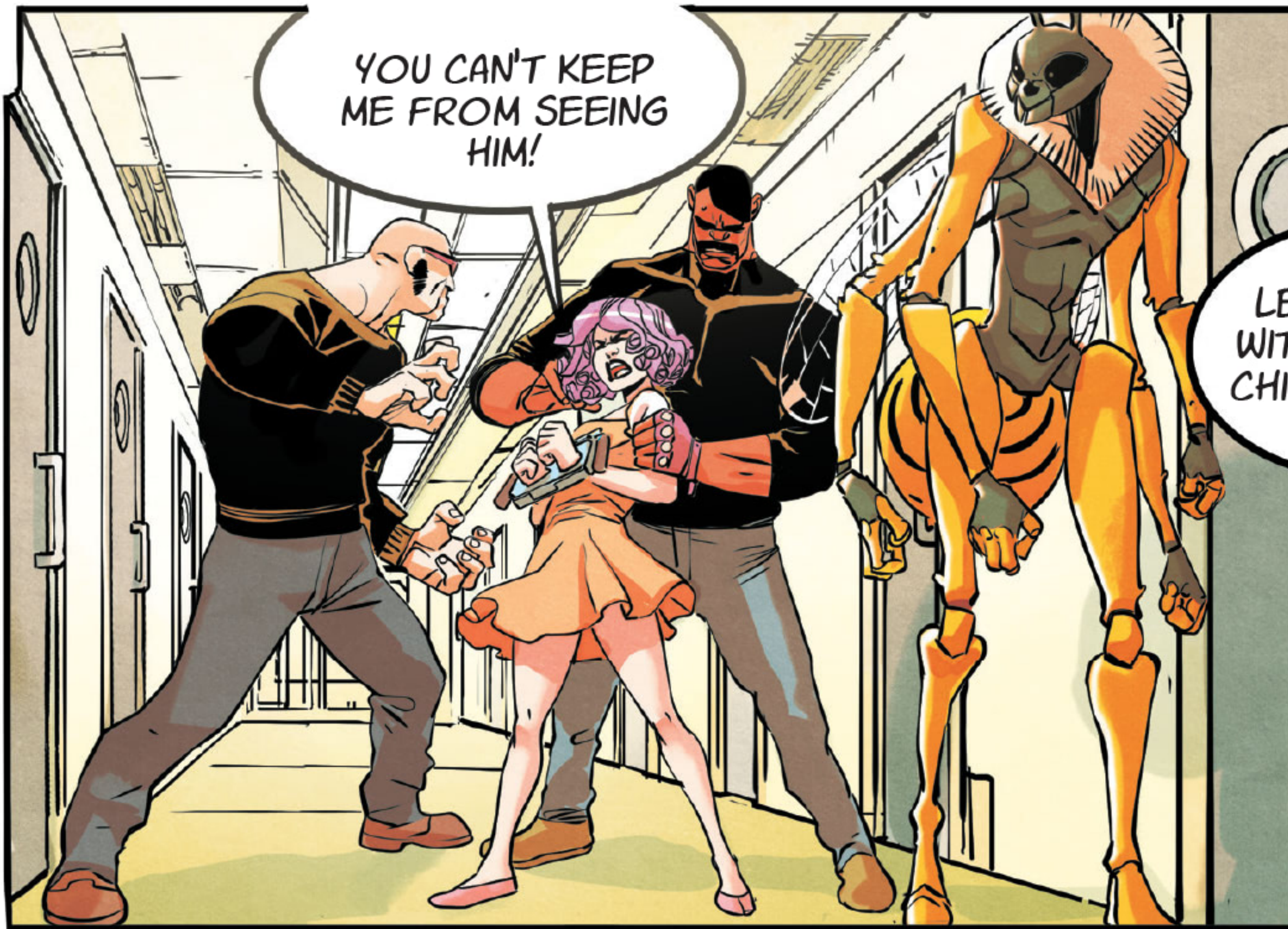
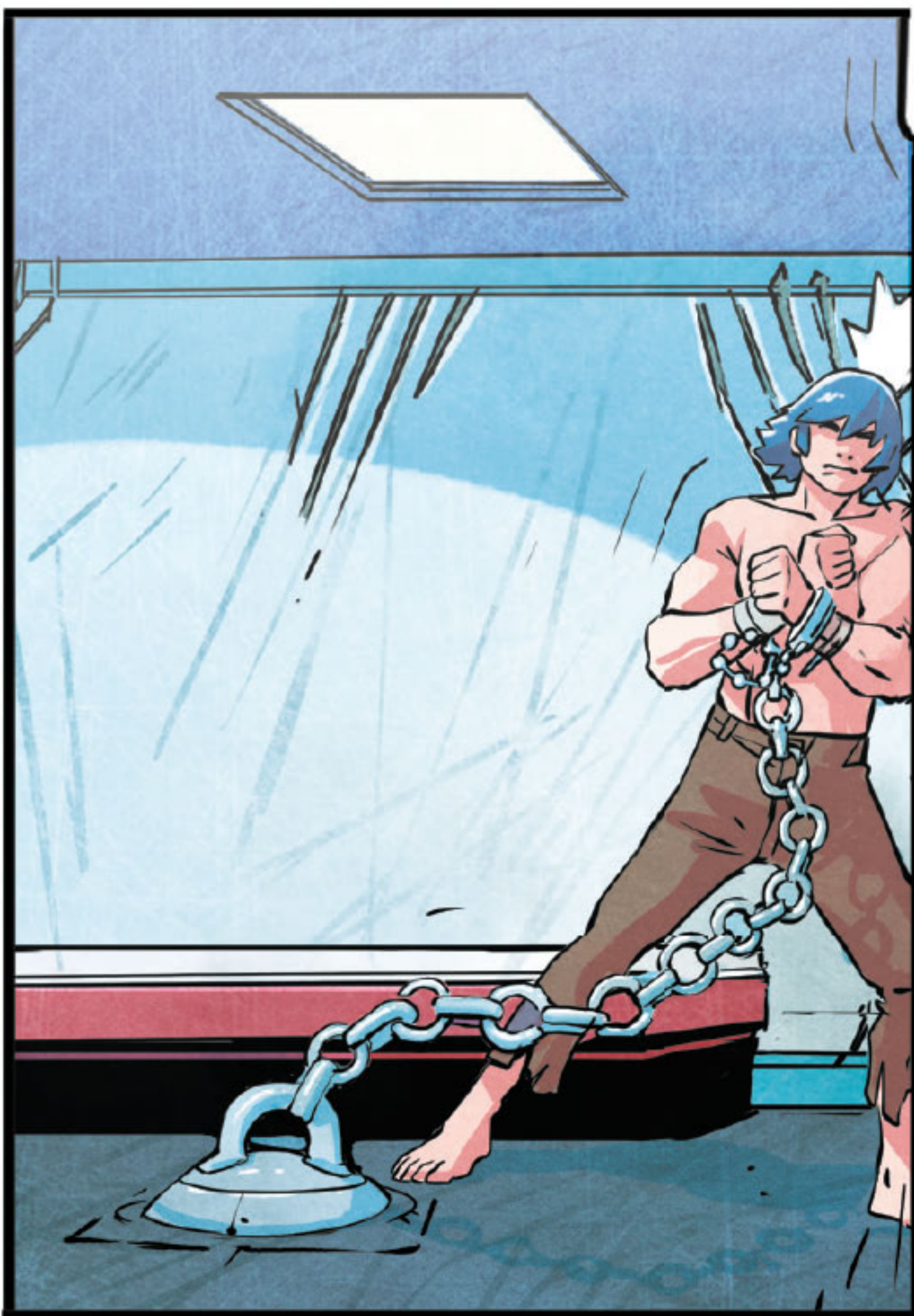
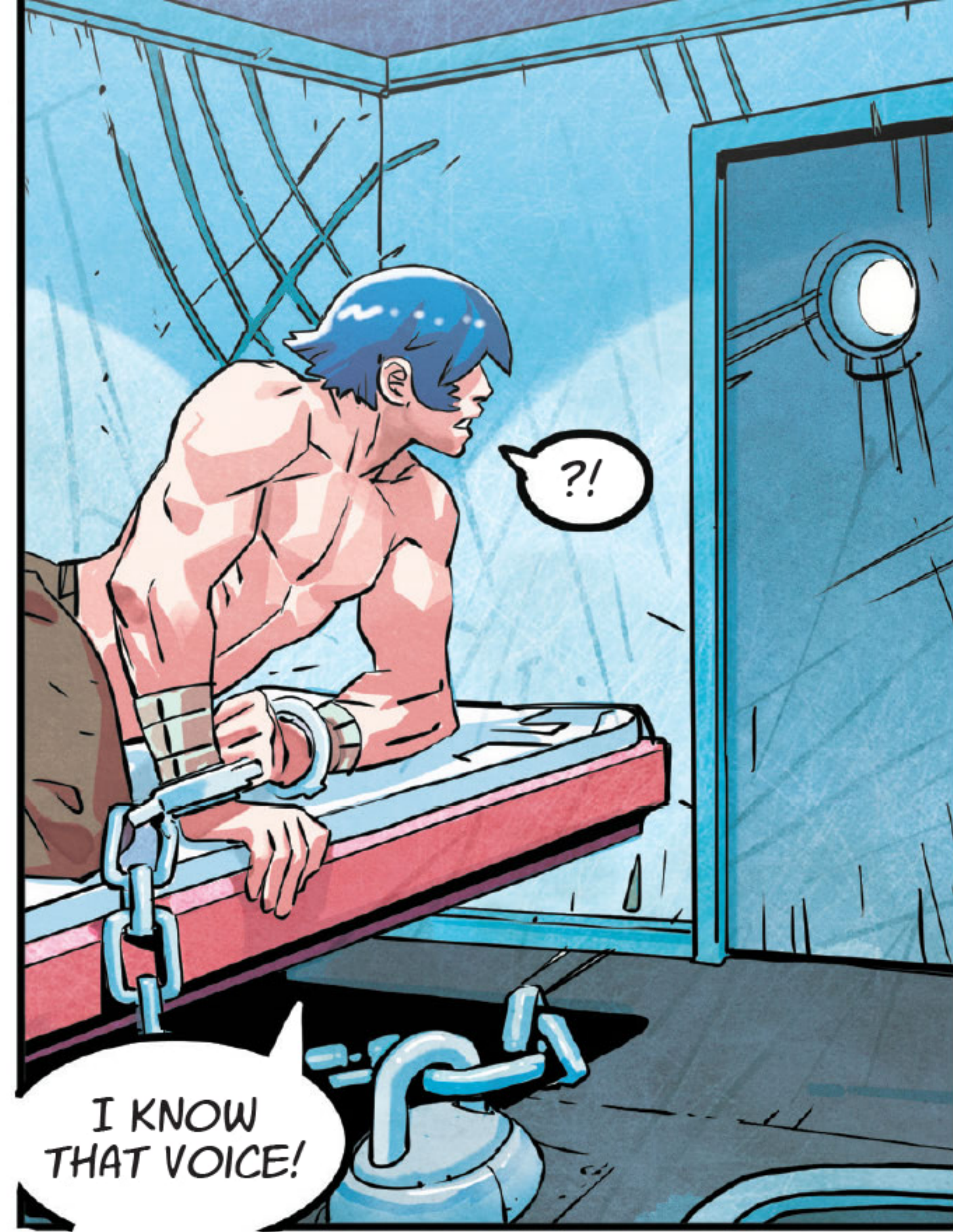
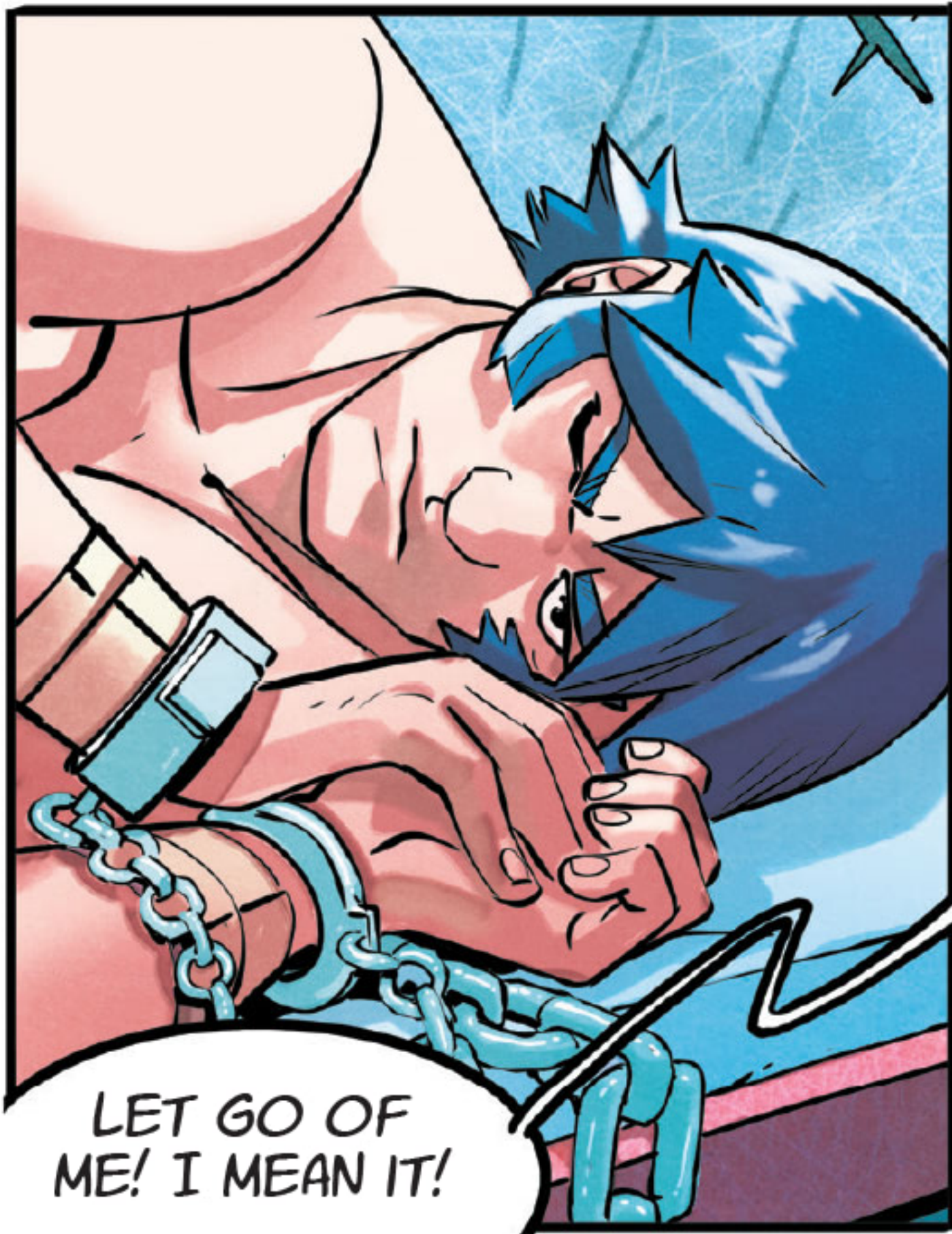
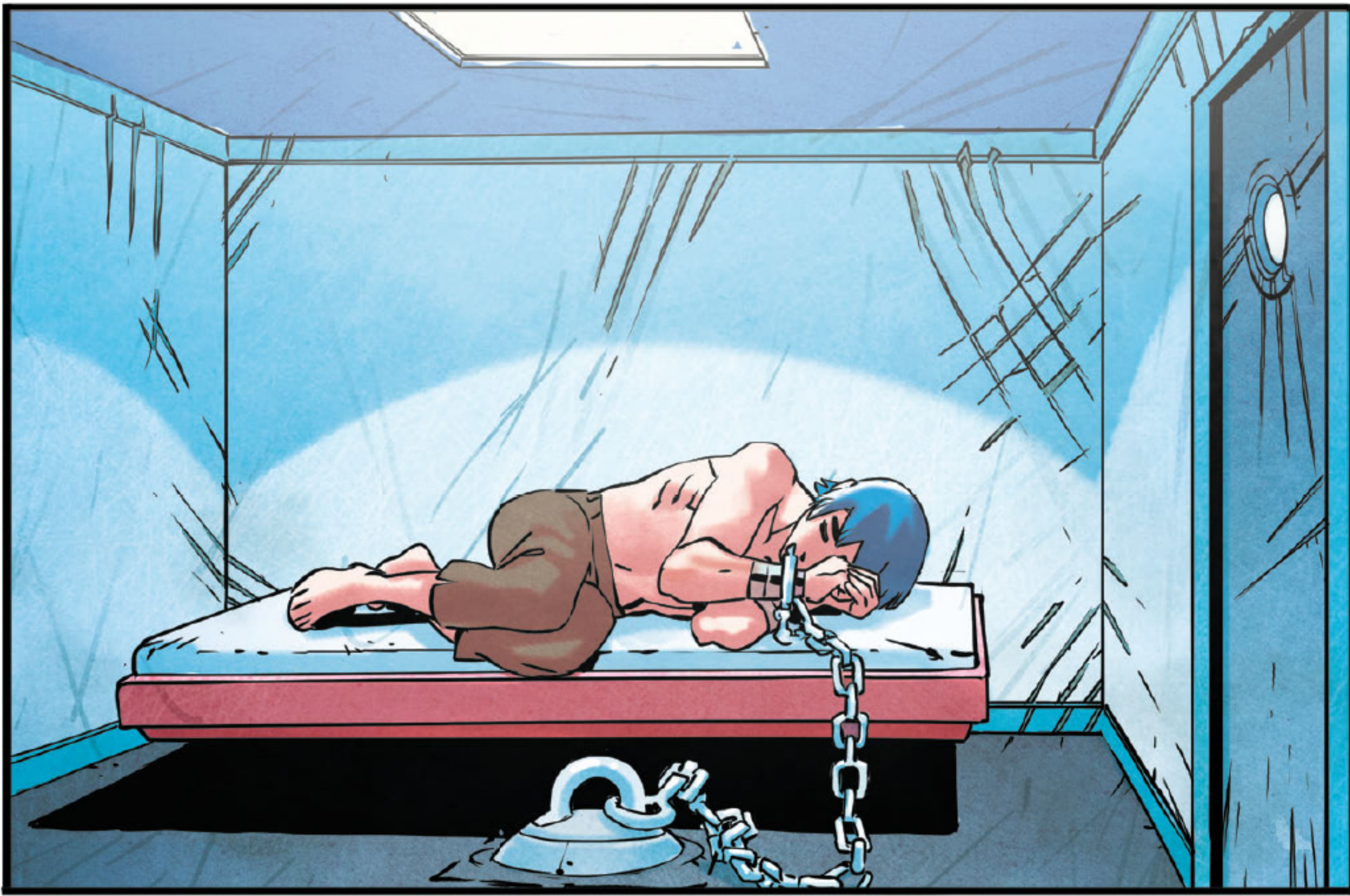


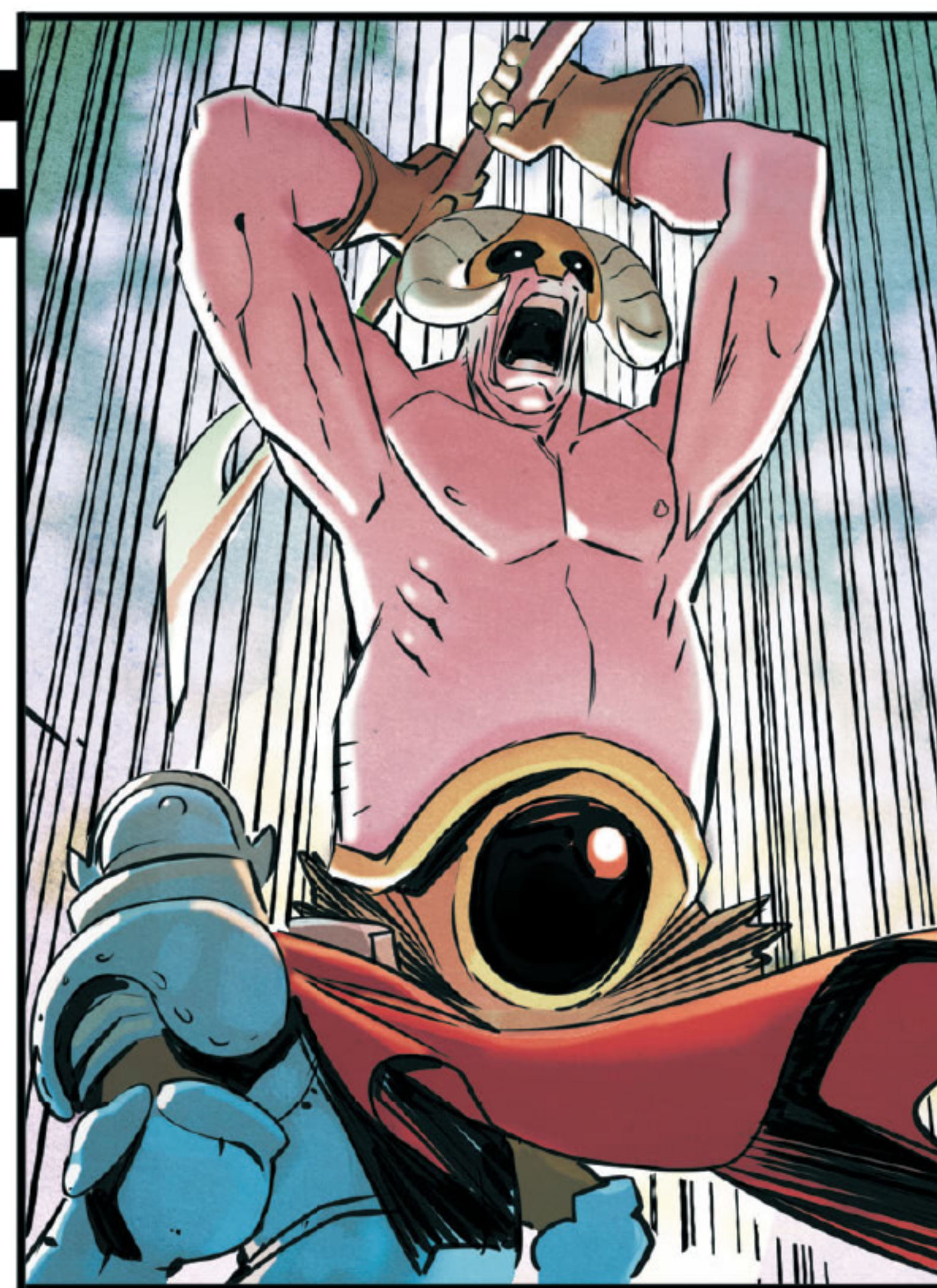
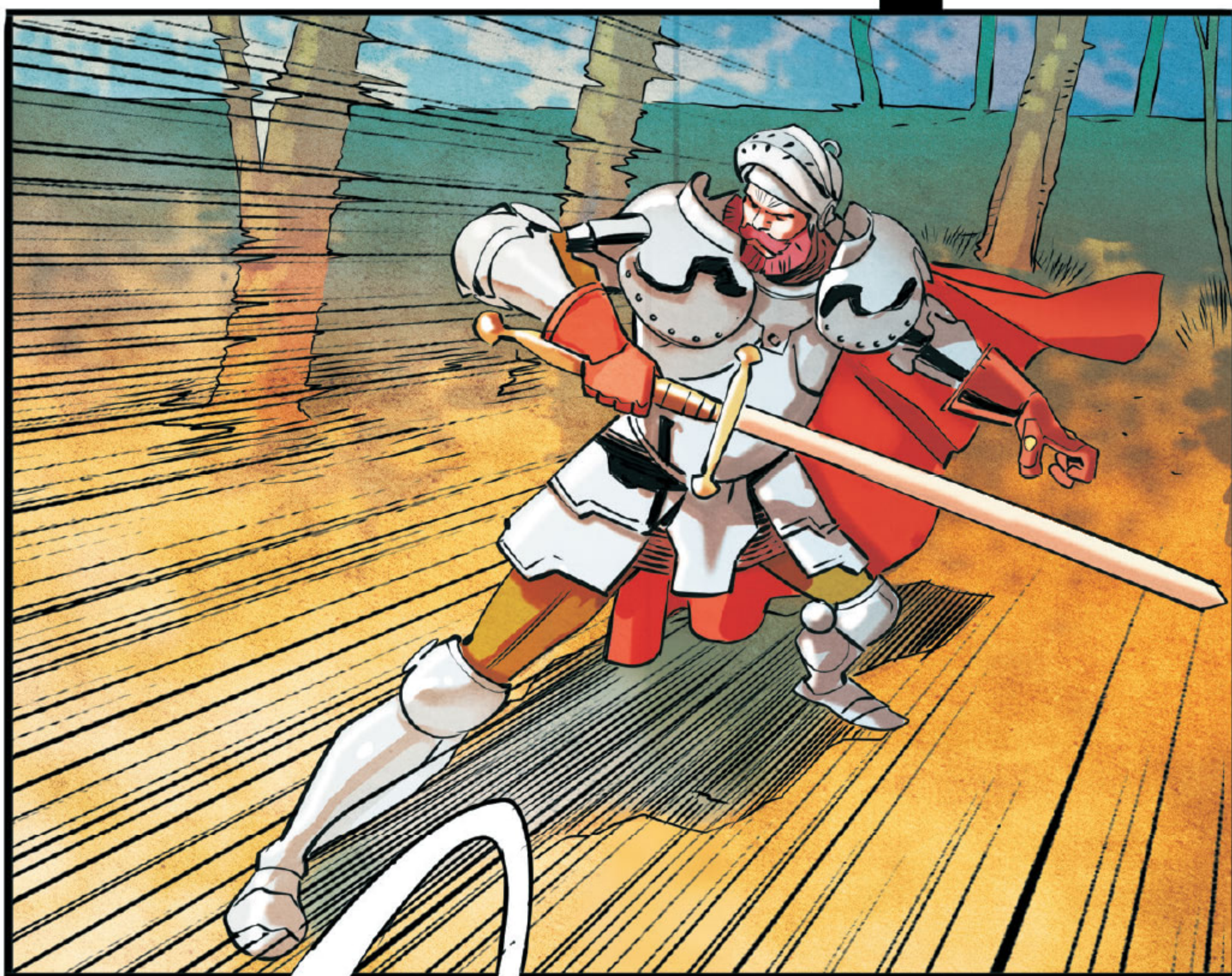
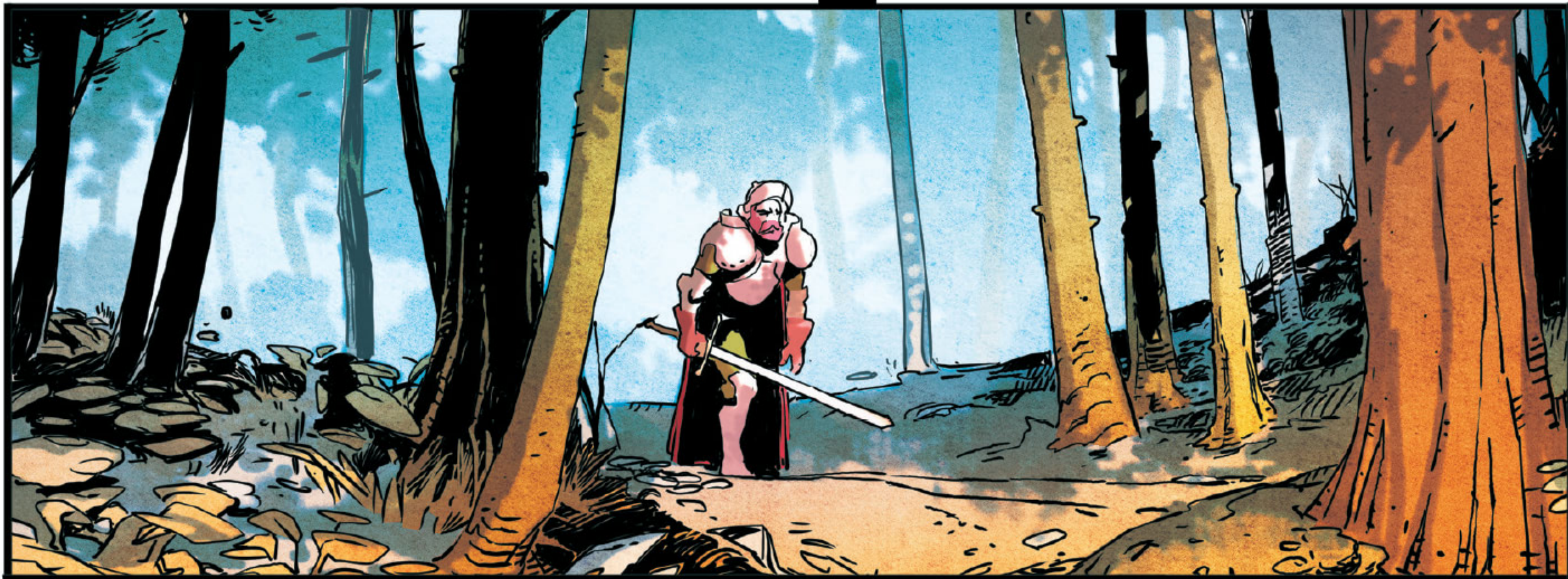


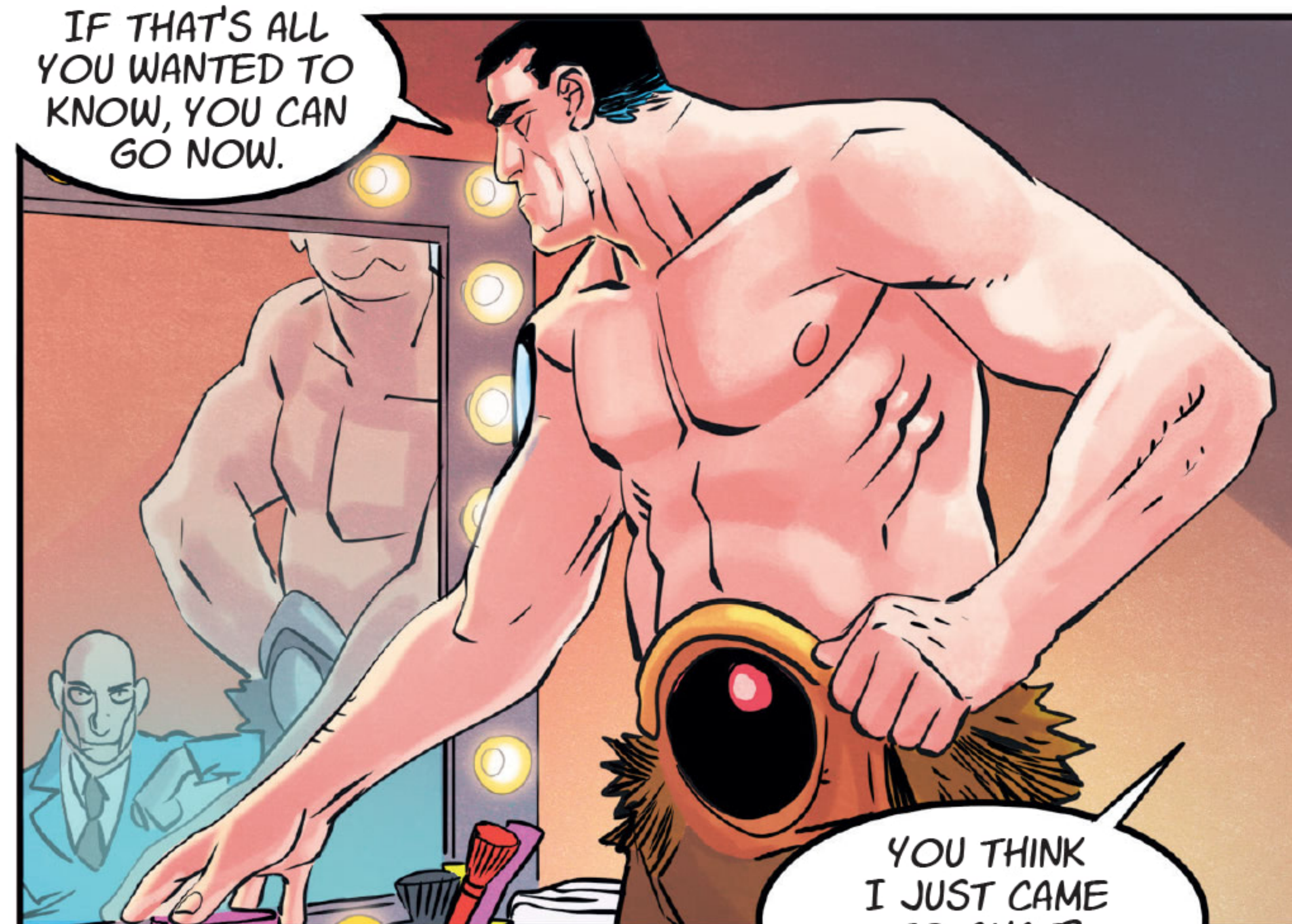
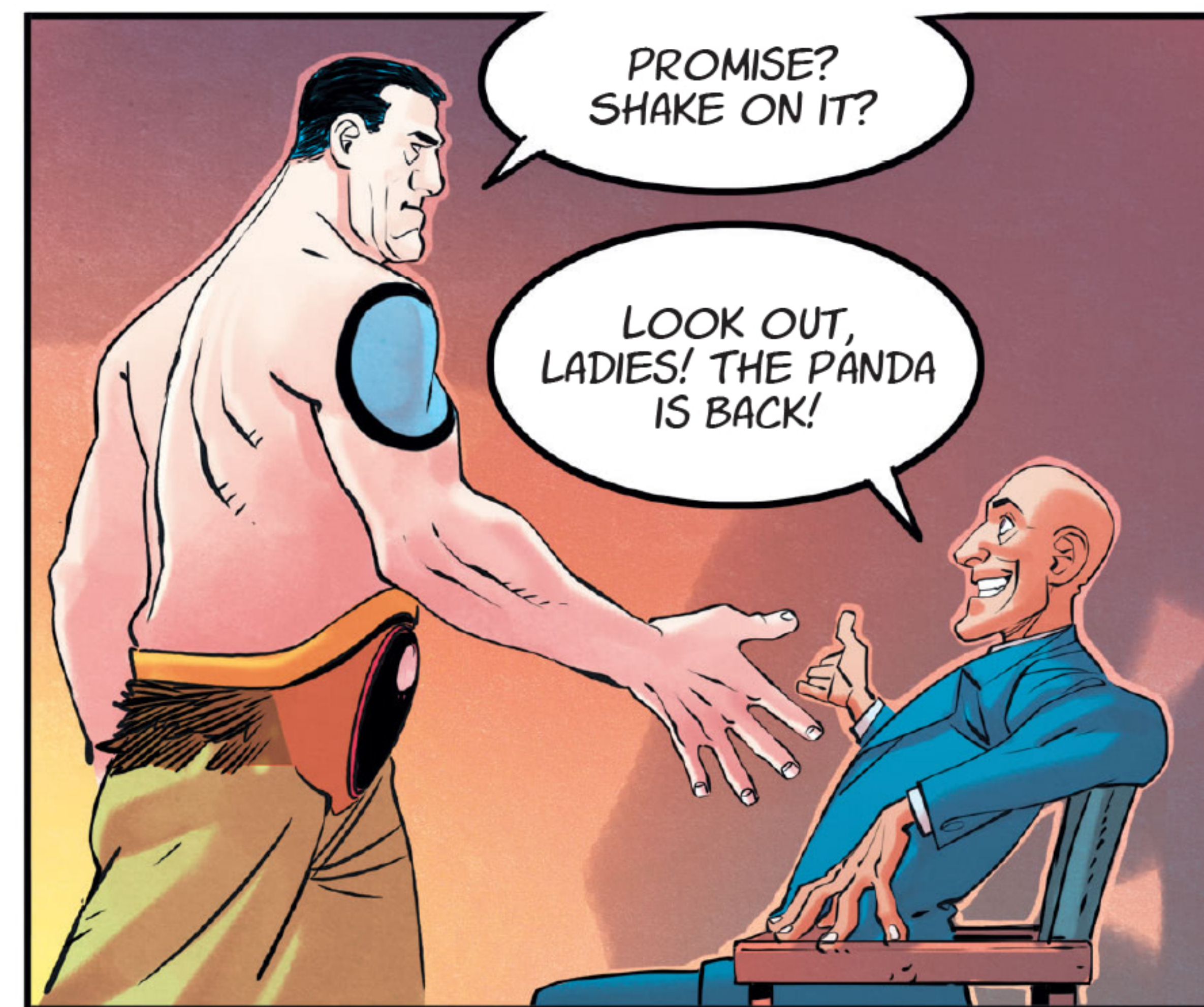
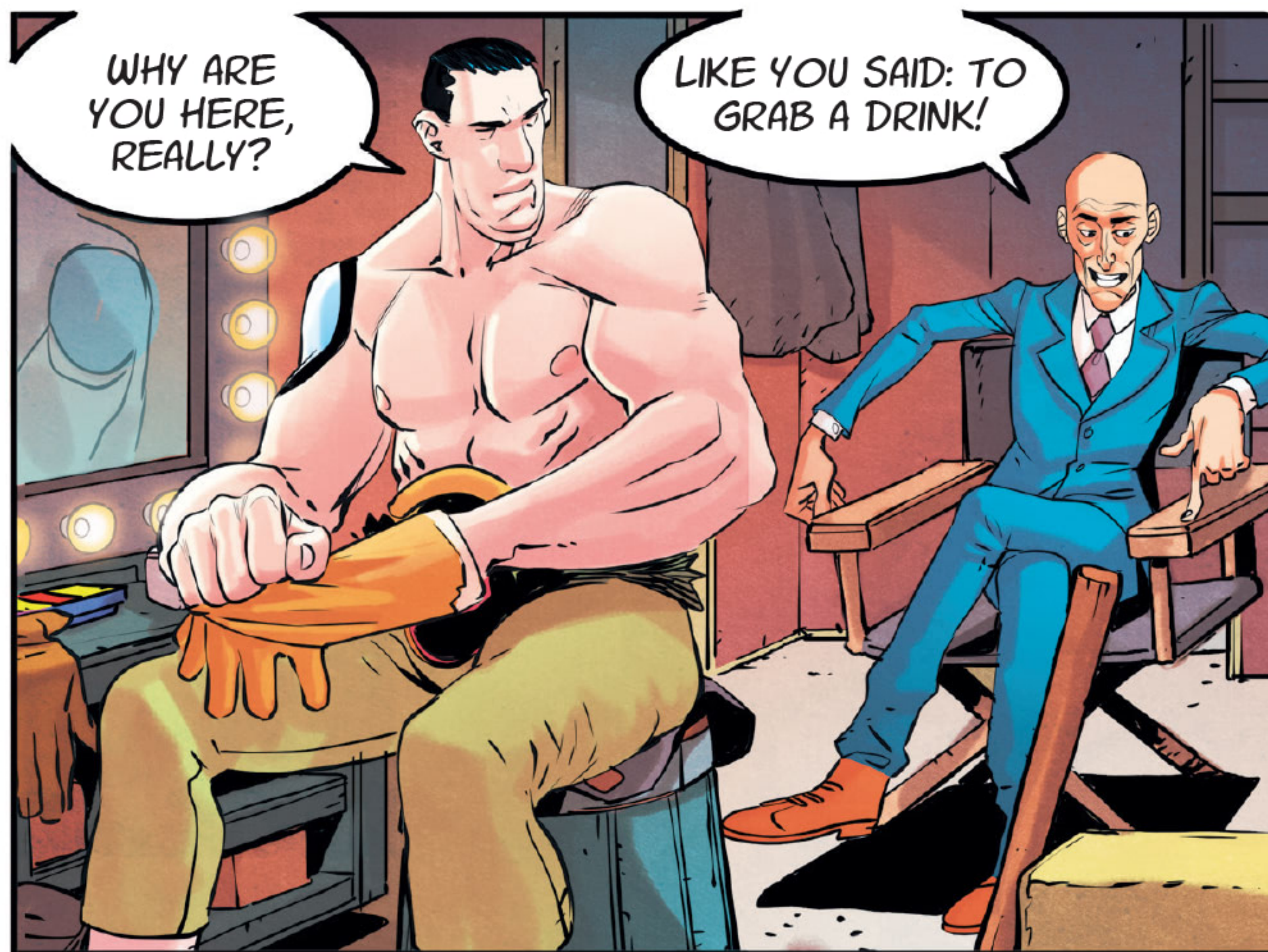
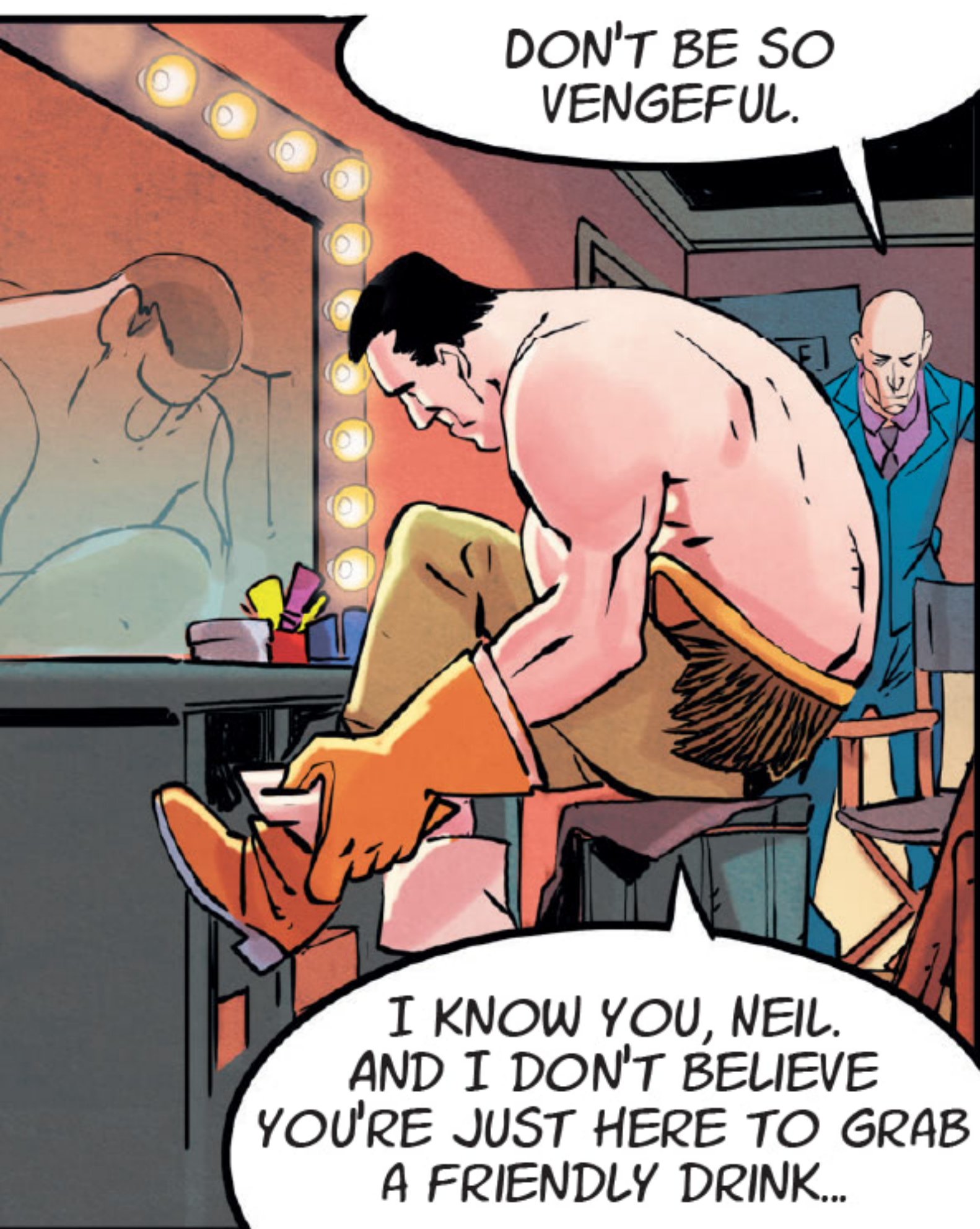
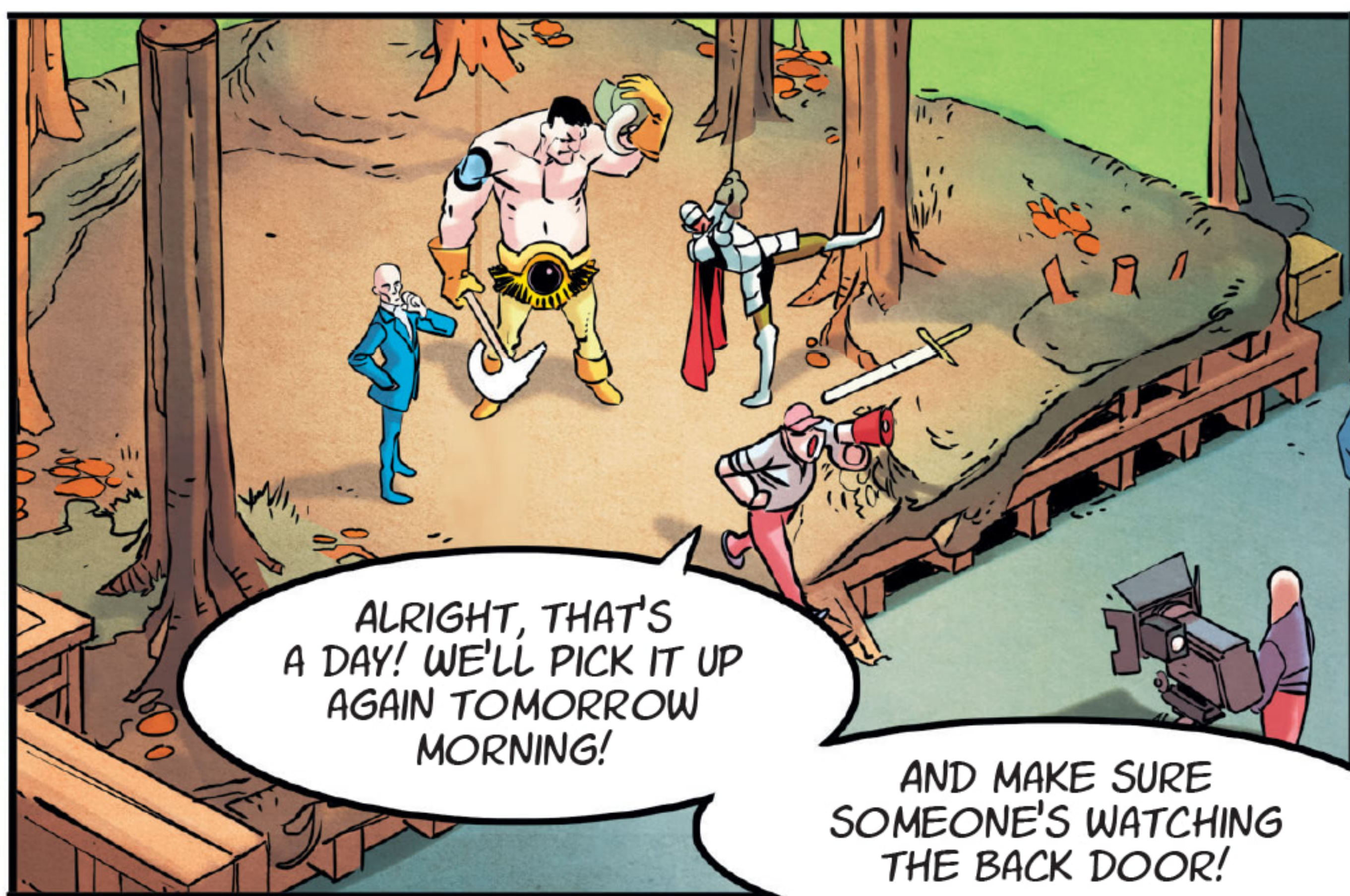
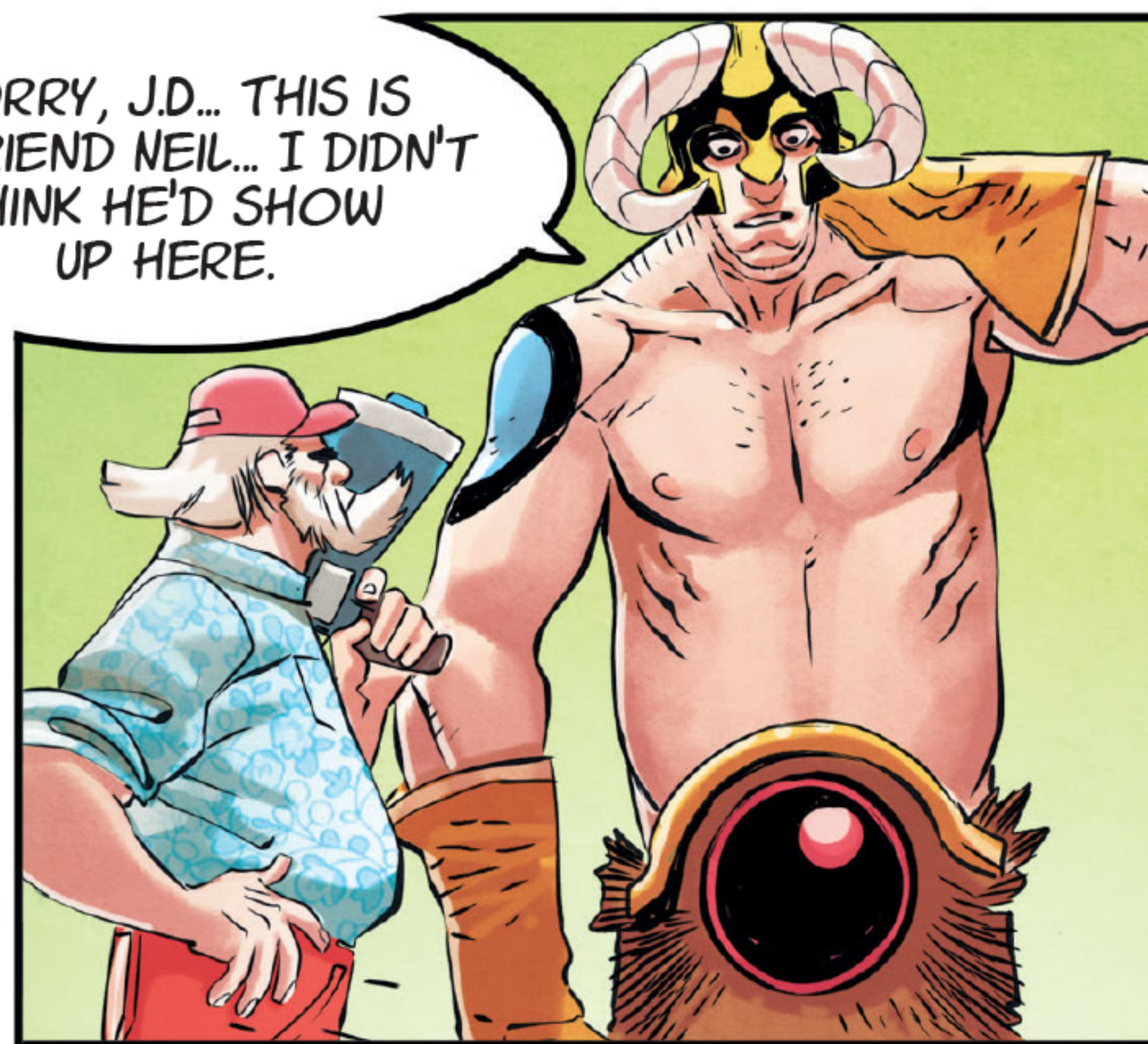
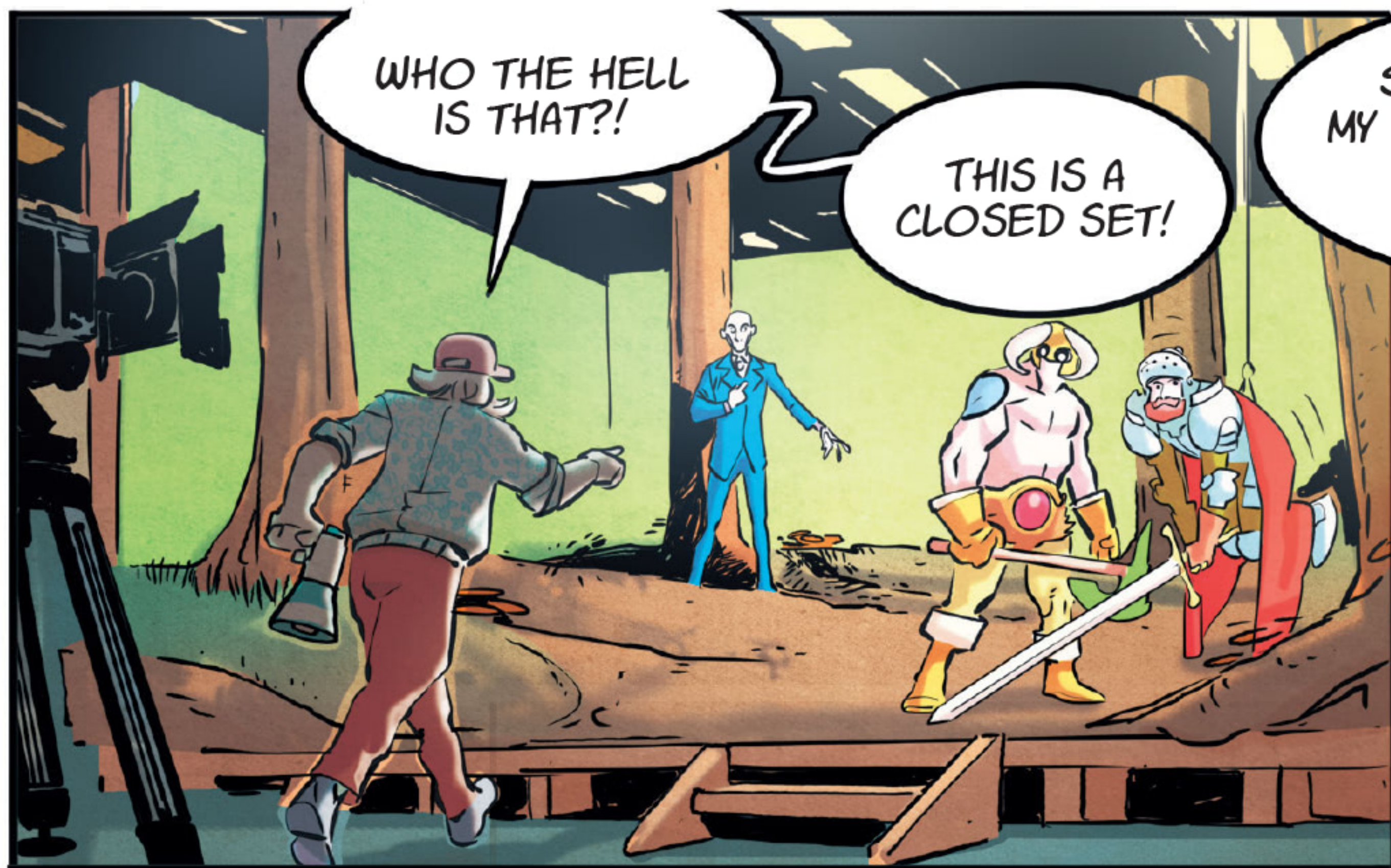


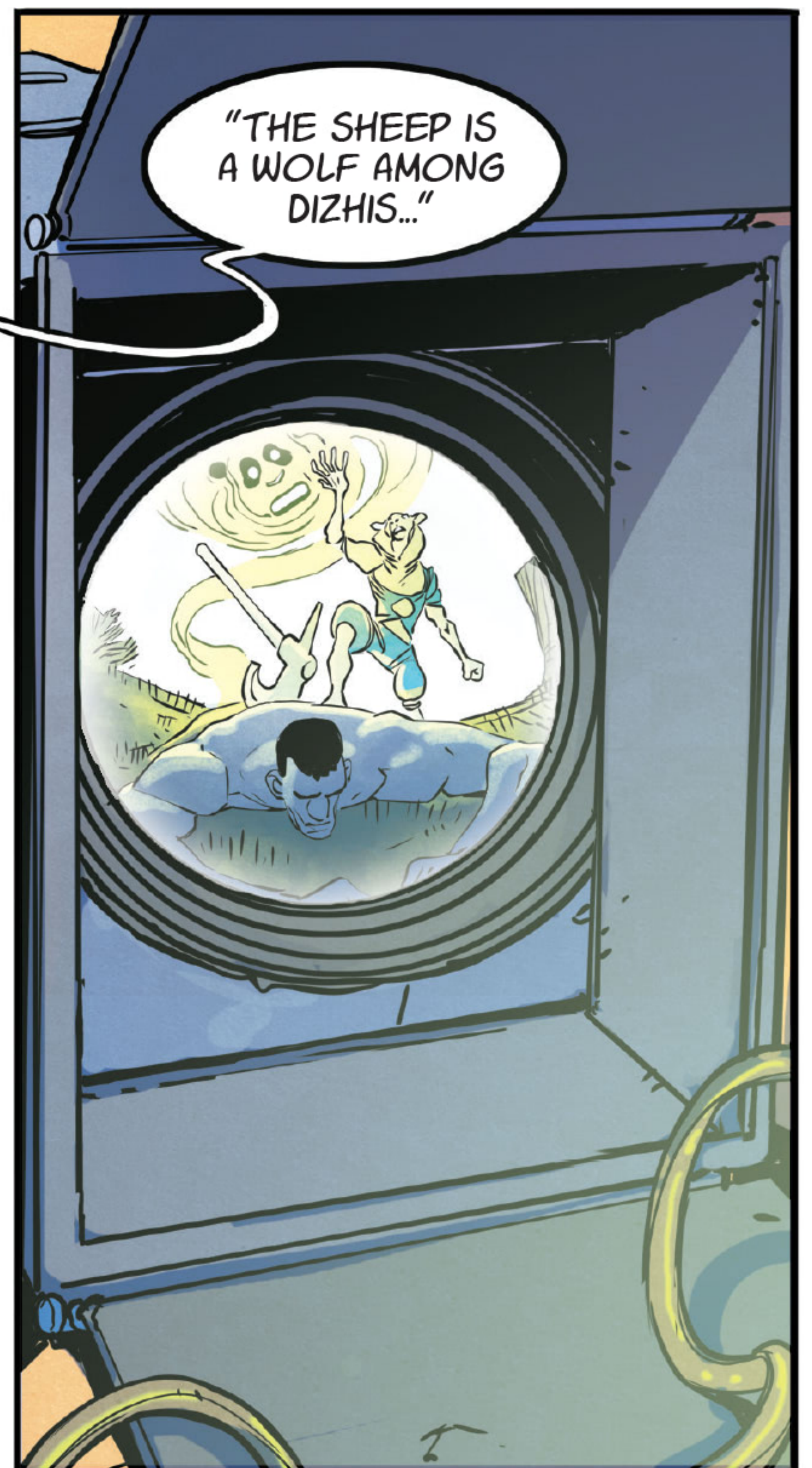
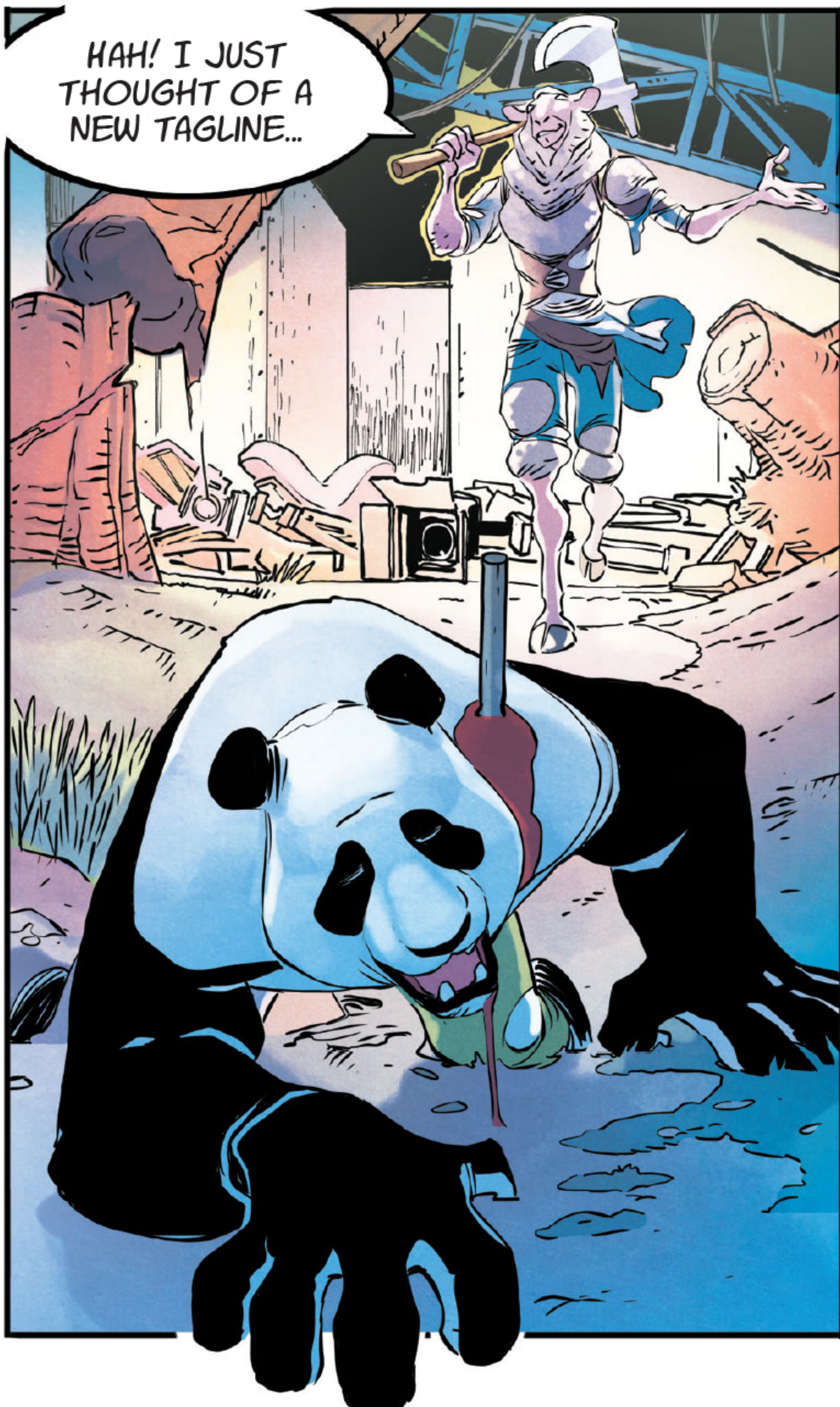
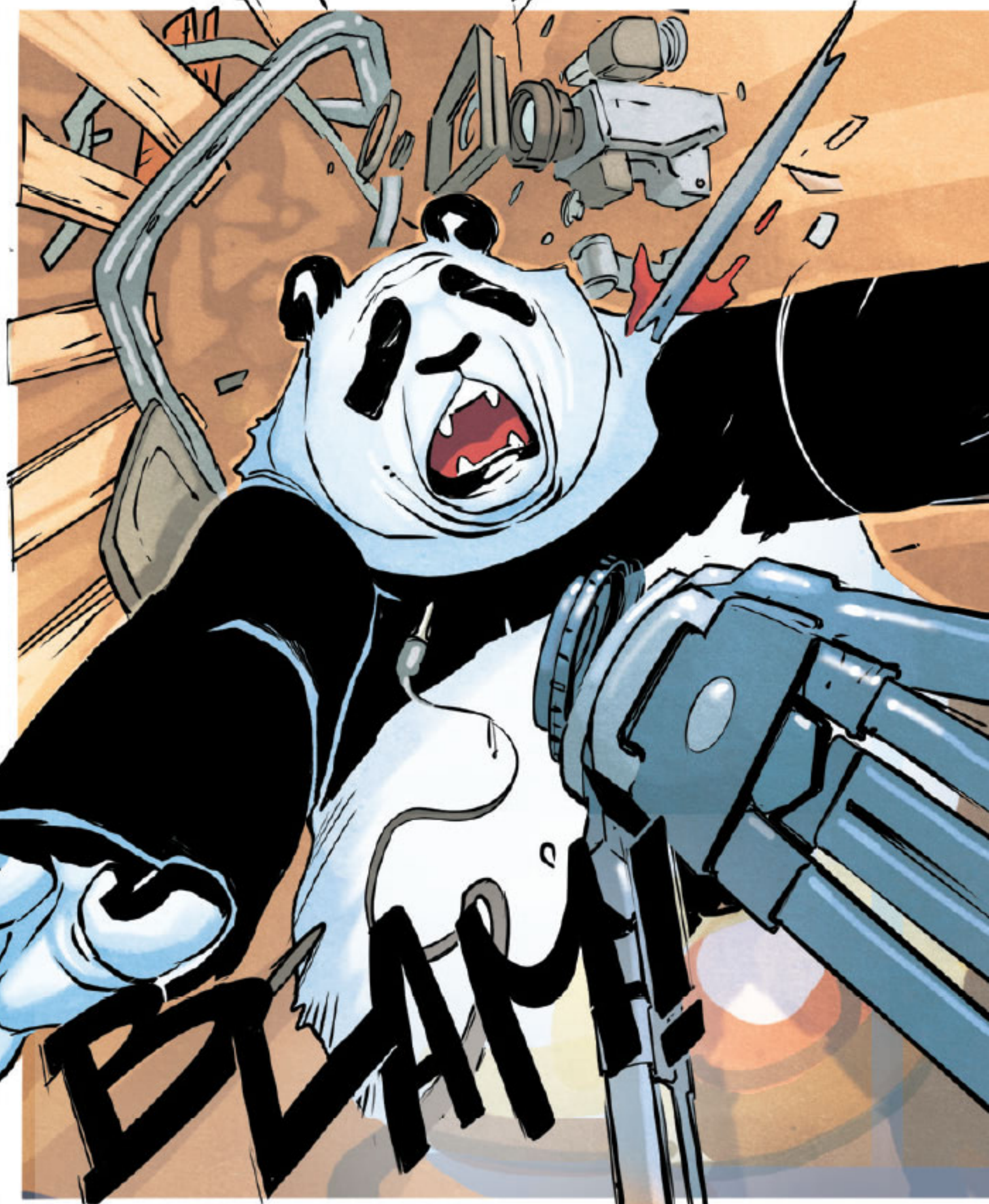
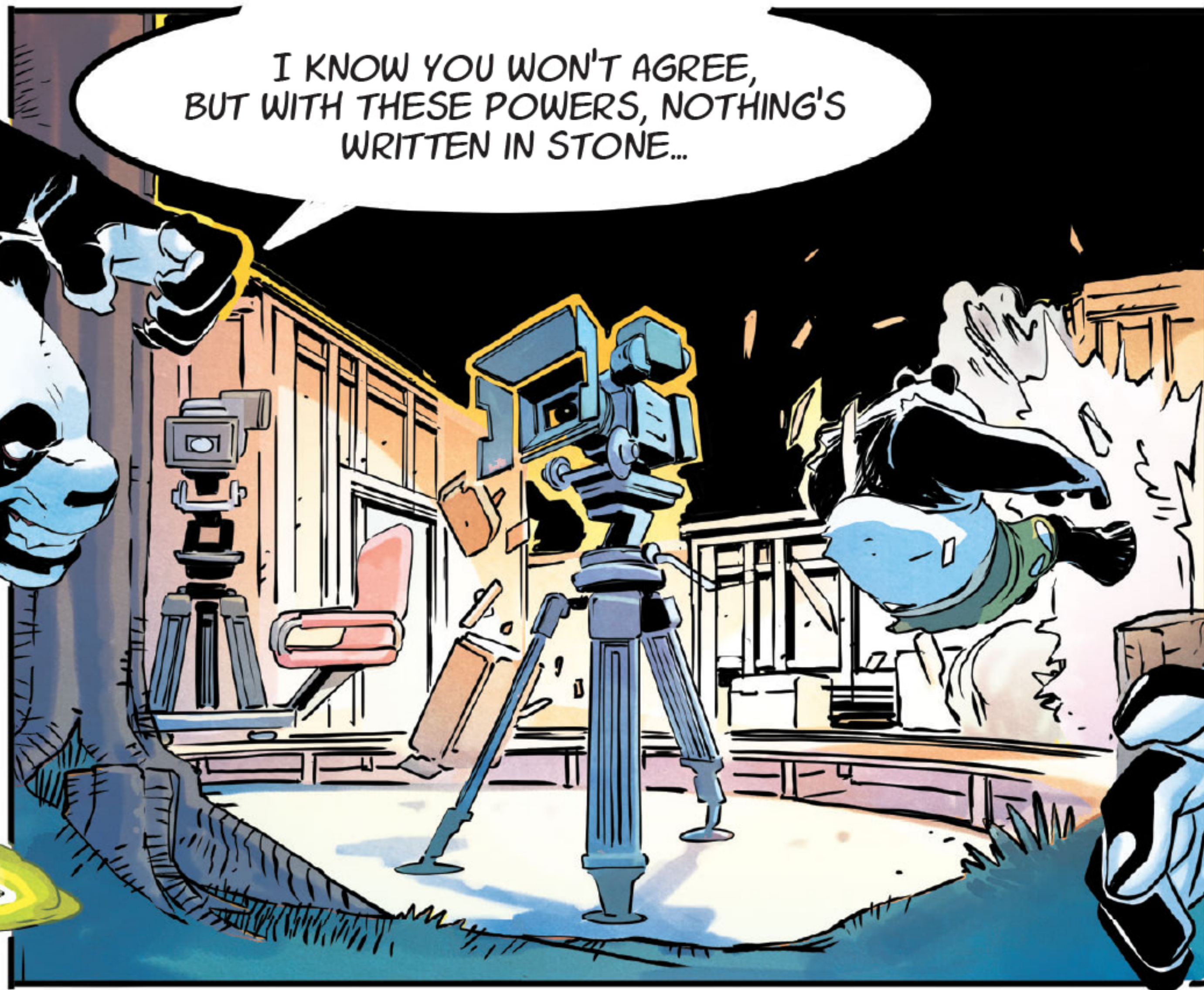
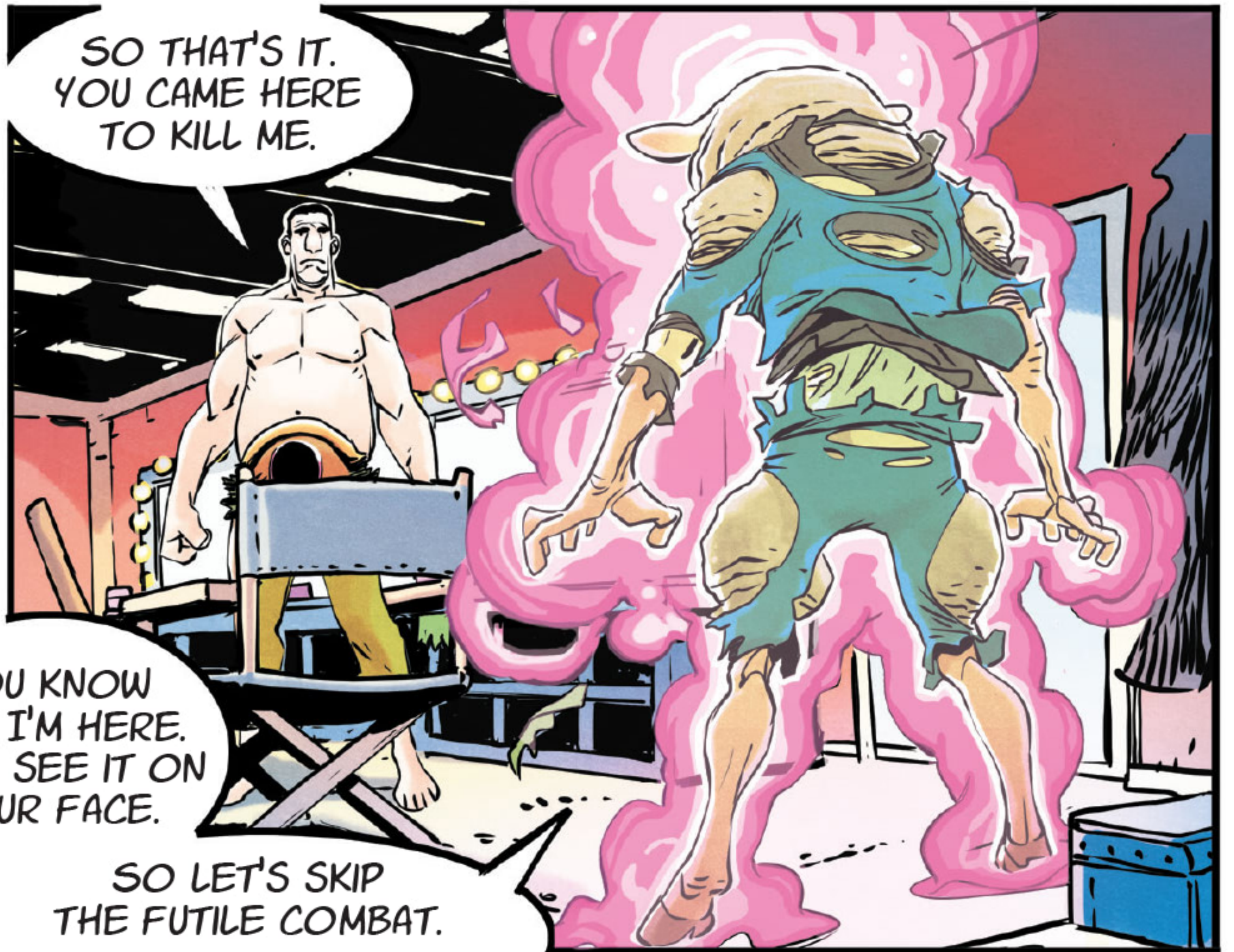
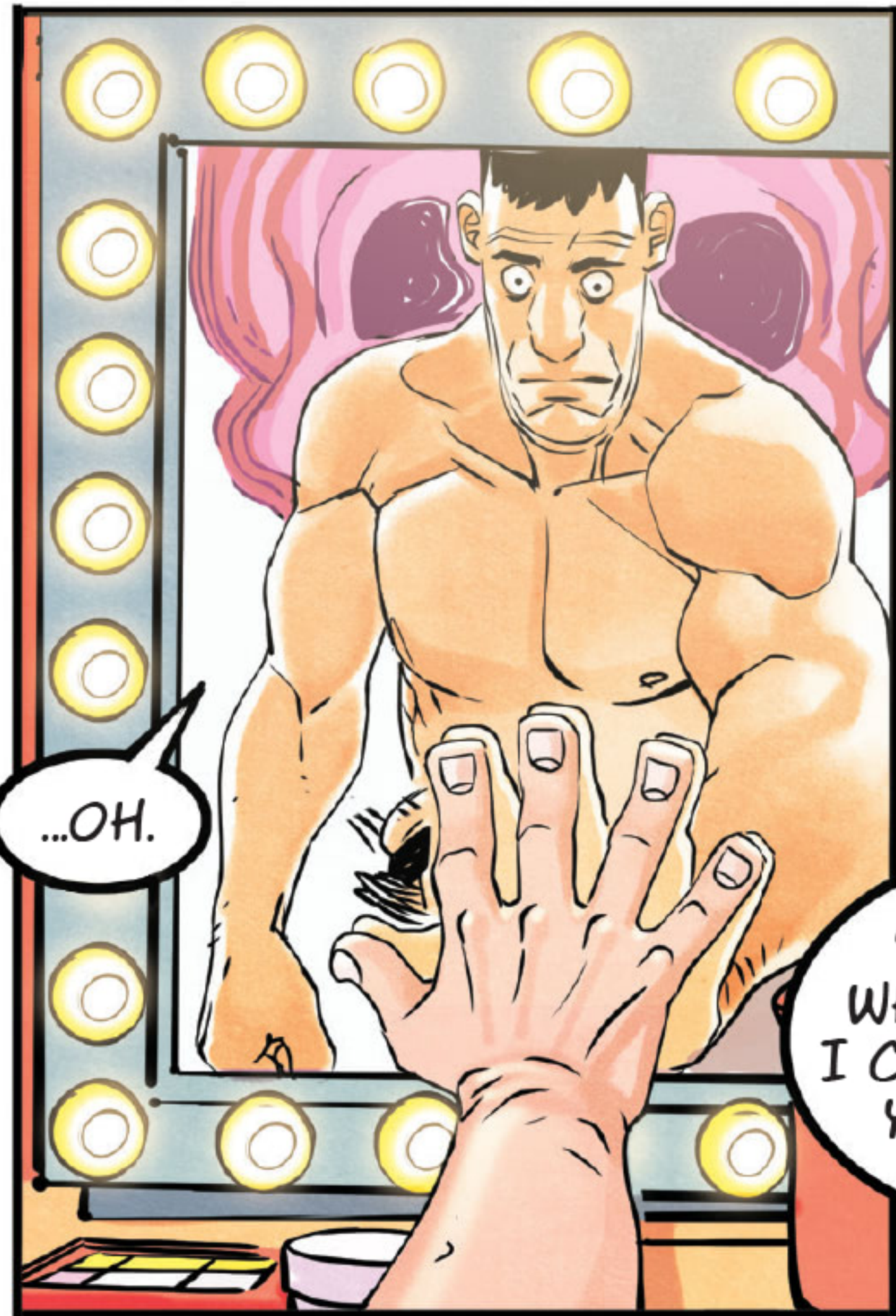














WELL, NOW!
FRESH MEAT!

PRESENTING
THE RABBIT AND
THE GOAT!

THE TIGER'S
TEAMMATES!



YEAH, AND HE'LL
CUT YOU DOWN TO
SIZE FOR KIDNAPPING
US, TOO!

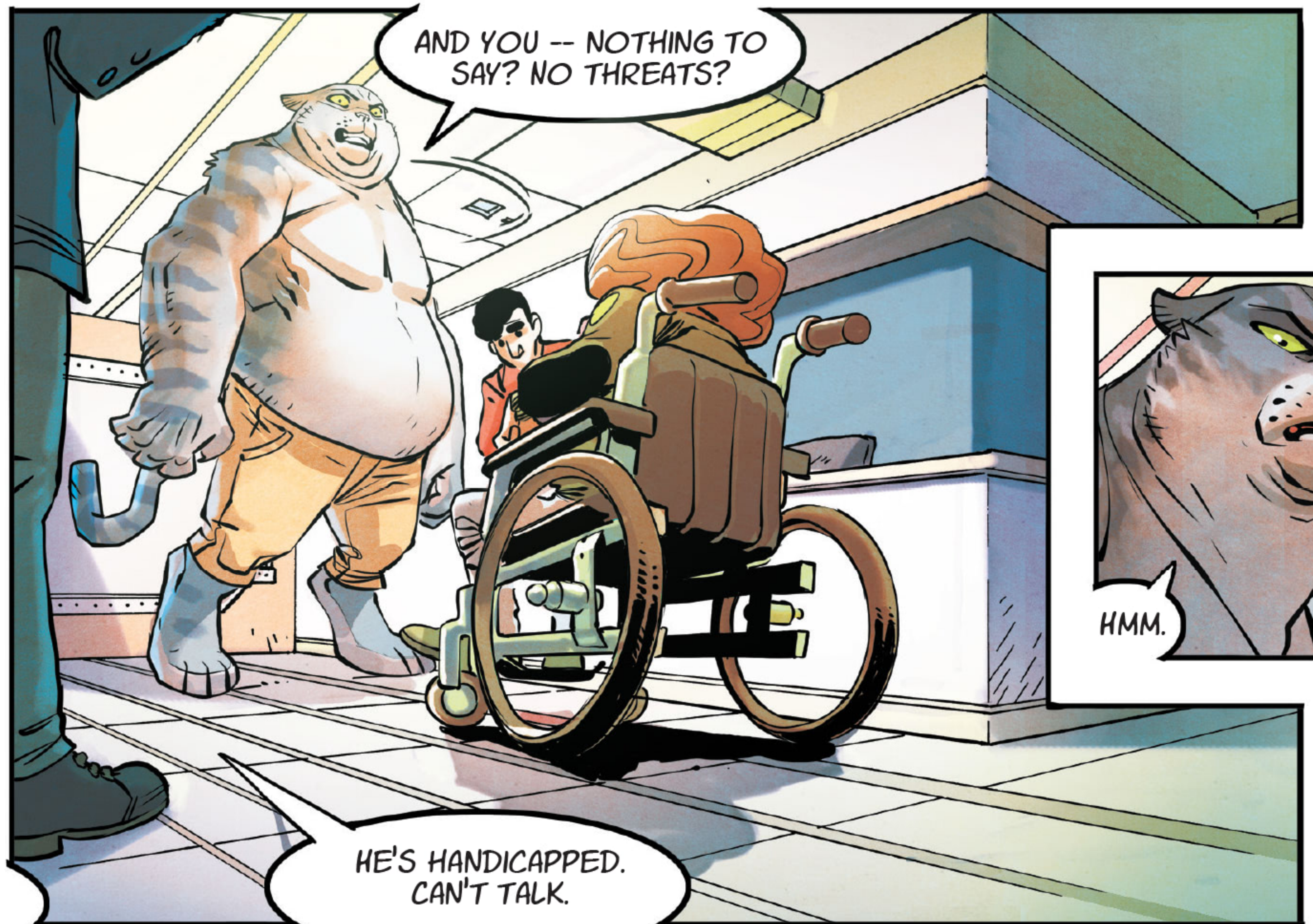


HA HA HA!

GUESS
YOU HAVEN'T
HEARD!



THAT AWESOME FRIEND OF
YOURS IS ON LOCKDOWN. NOBODY'S COMING
TO SAVE YOU, MUCH LESS CUT ME DOWN TO SIZE!



AND YOU -- NOTHING TO
SAY? NO THREATS?

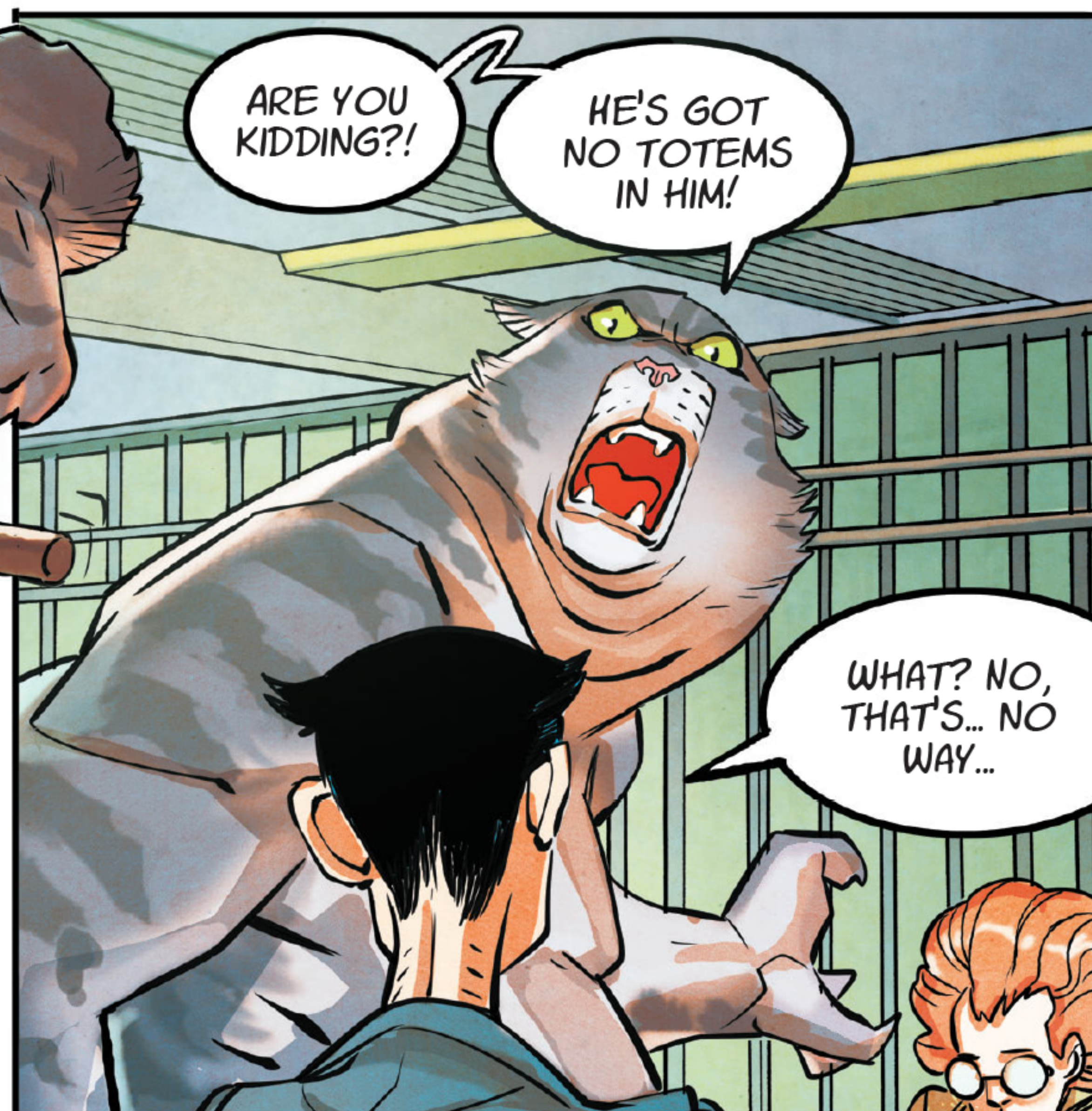
HE'S HANDICAPPED.
CAN'T TALK.



HMM.



HANG
ON...



ARE YOU
KIDDING?!

HE'S GOT
NO TOTEMS
IN HIM!

WHAT? NO,
THAT'S... NO
WAY...

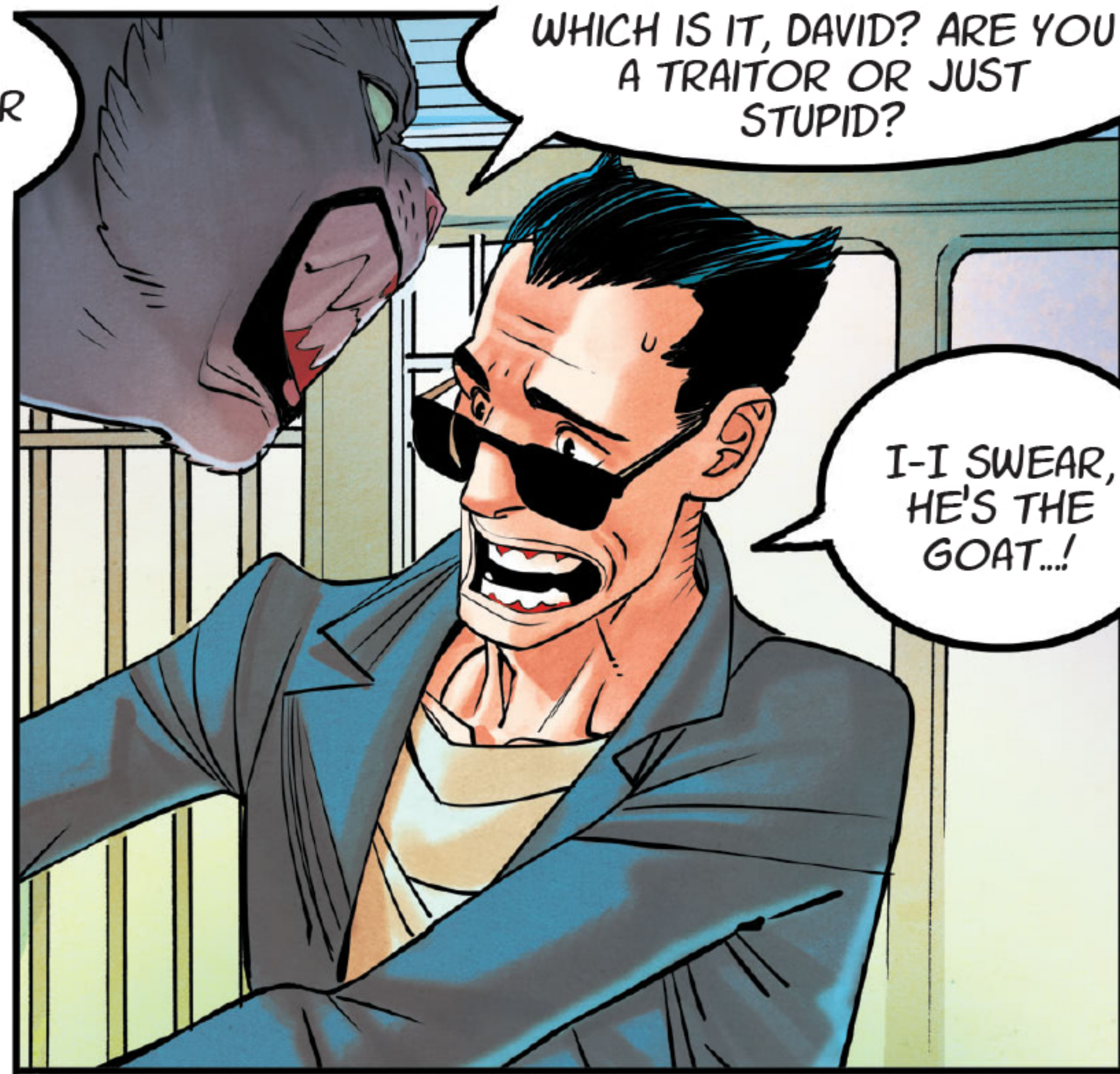


HE'S THE
GOAT... I'M
PRETTY SURE...



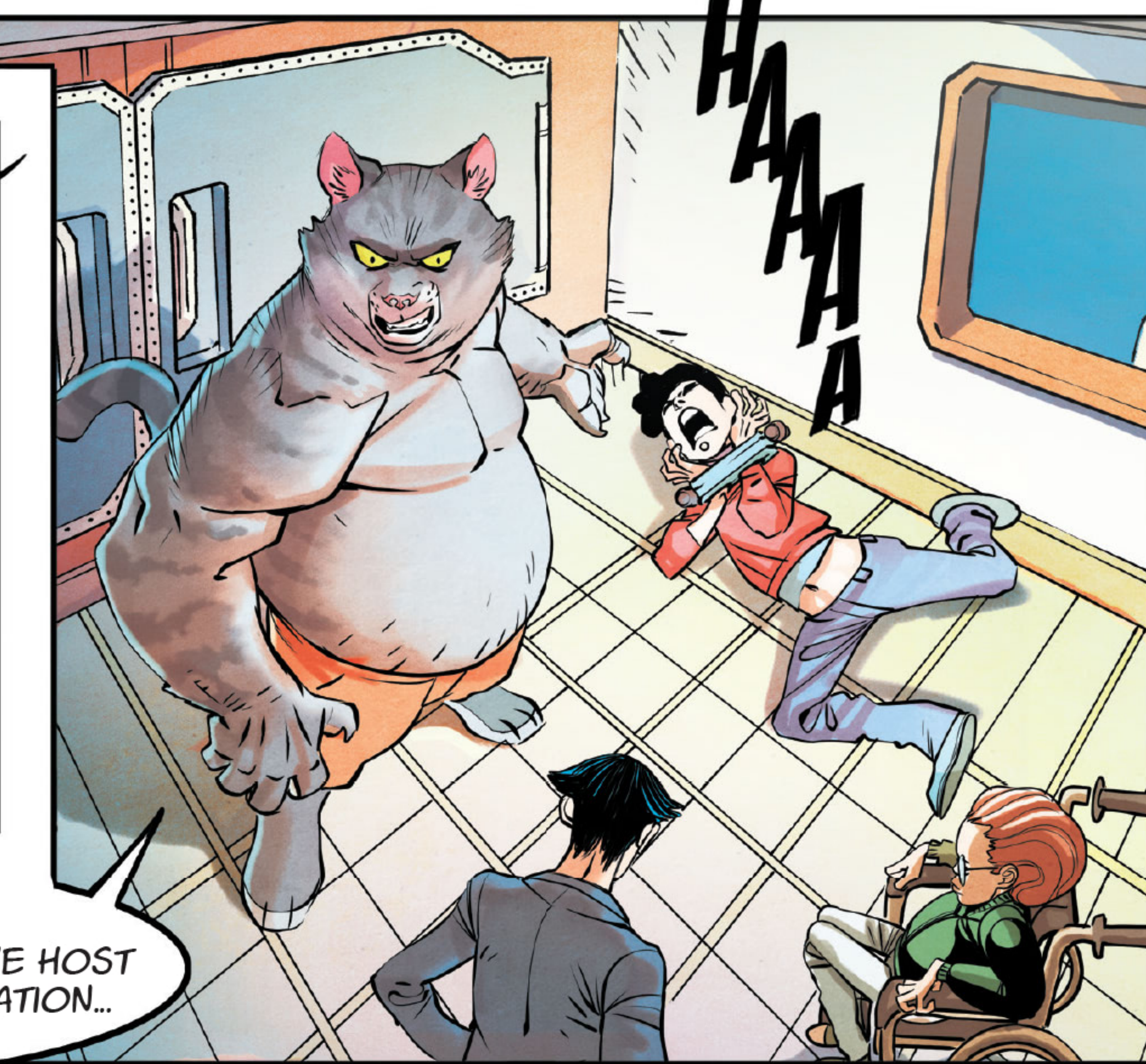
AND I'M TELLING YOU THAT HE'S AN EMPTY SHELL!

SO EITHER YOU'RE TRYIN' TO SCAM ME, OR YOU'VE BEEN HAD!



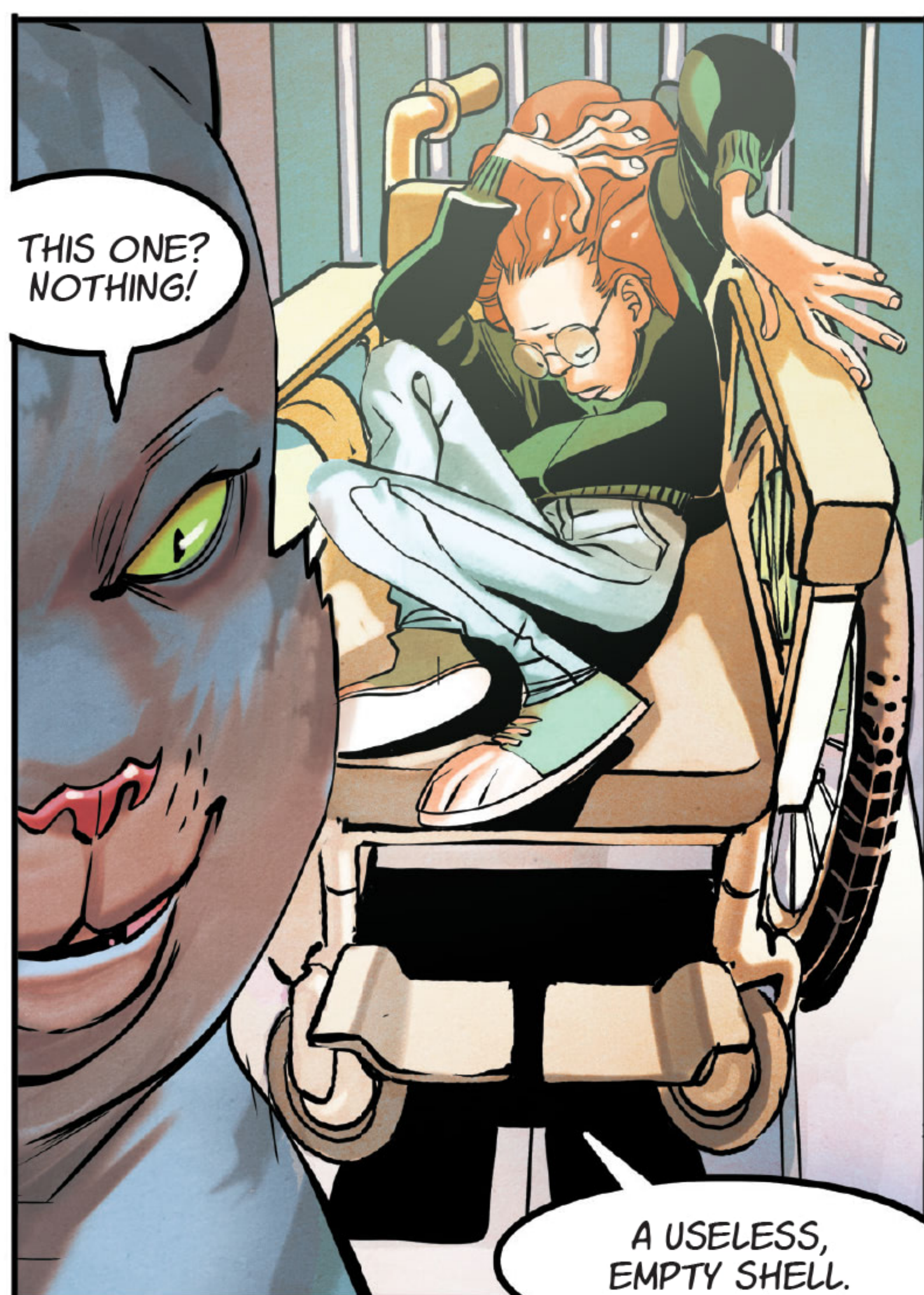
WHICH IS IT, DAVID? ARE YOU A TRAITOR OR JUST STUPID?

I-I SWEAR, HE'S THE GOAT...!



SEE? THAT'S THE RABBIT.

WHEN I BITE A DIZHI HOST, THE TOTEM SHOWS ITSELF, AND THE HOST STAYS STUCK IN THAT TRANSFORMATION...



THIS ONE? NOTHING!

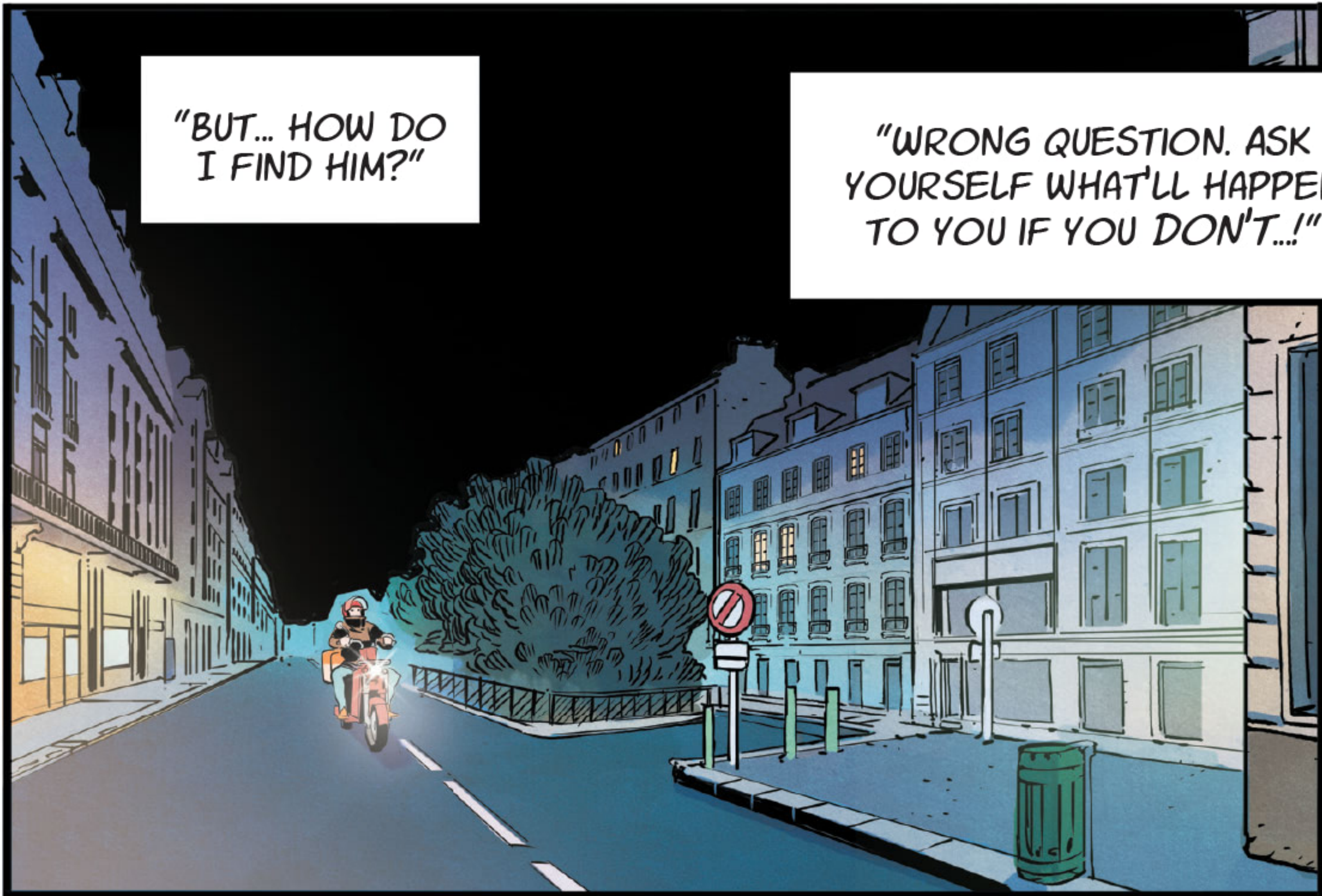
A USELESS, EMPTY SHELL.



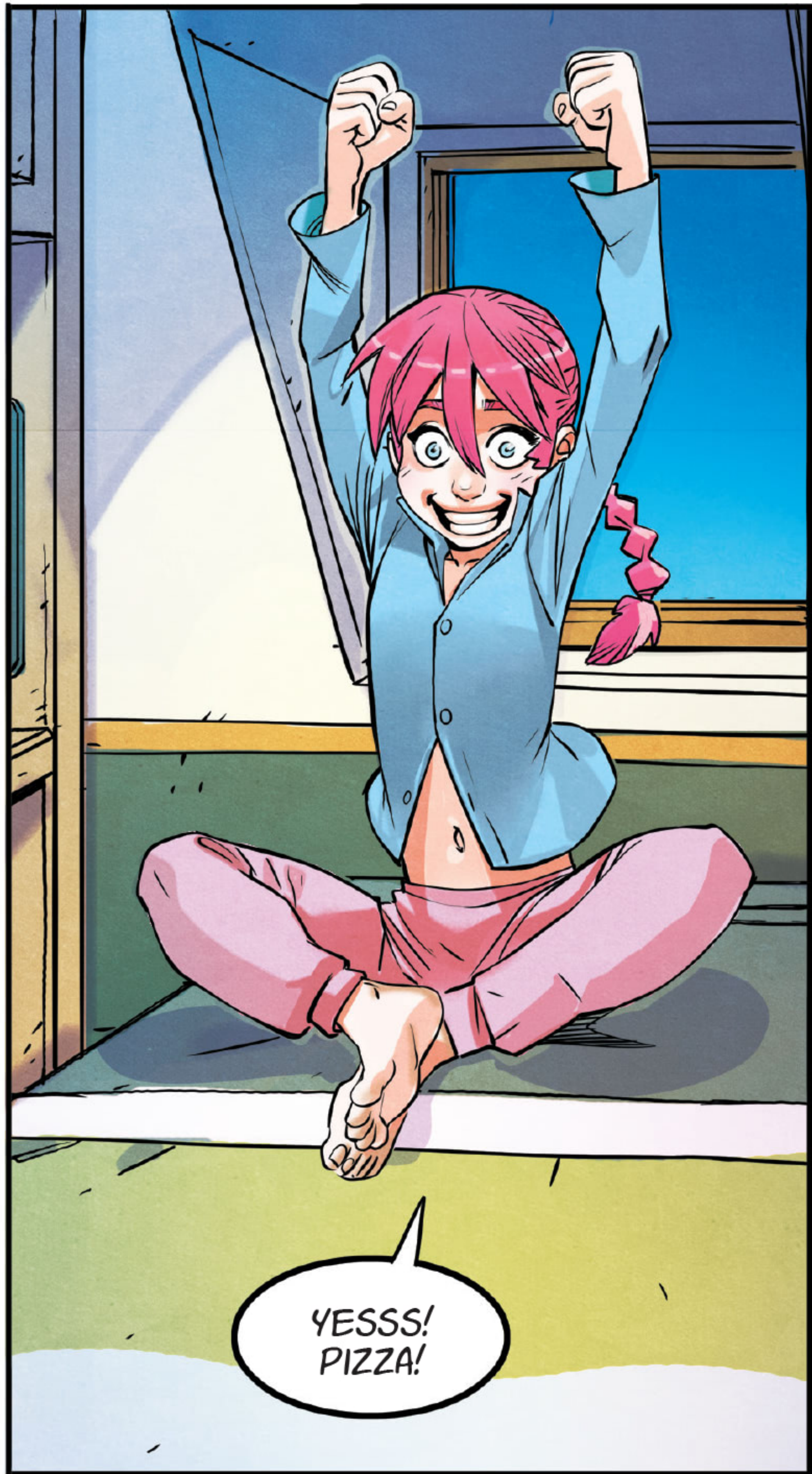
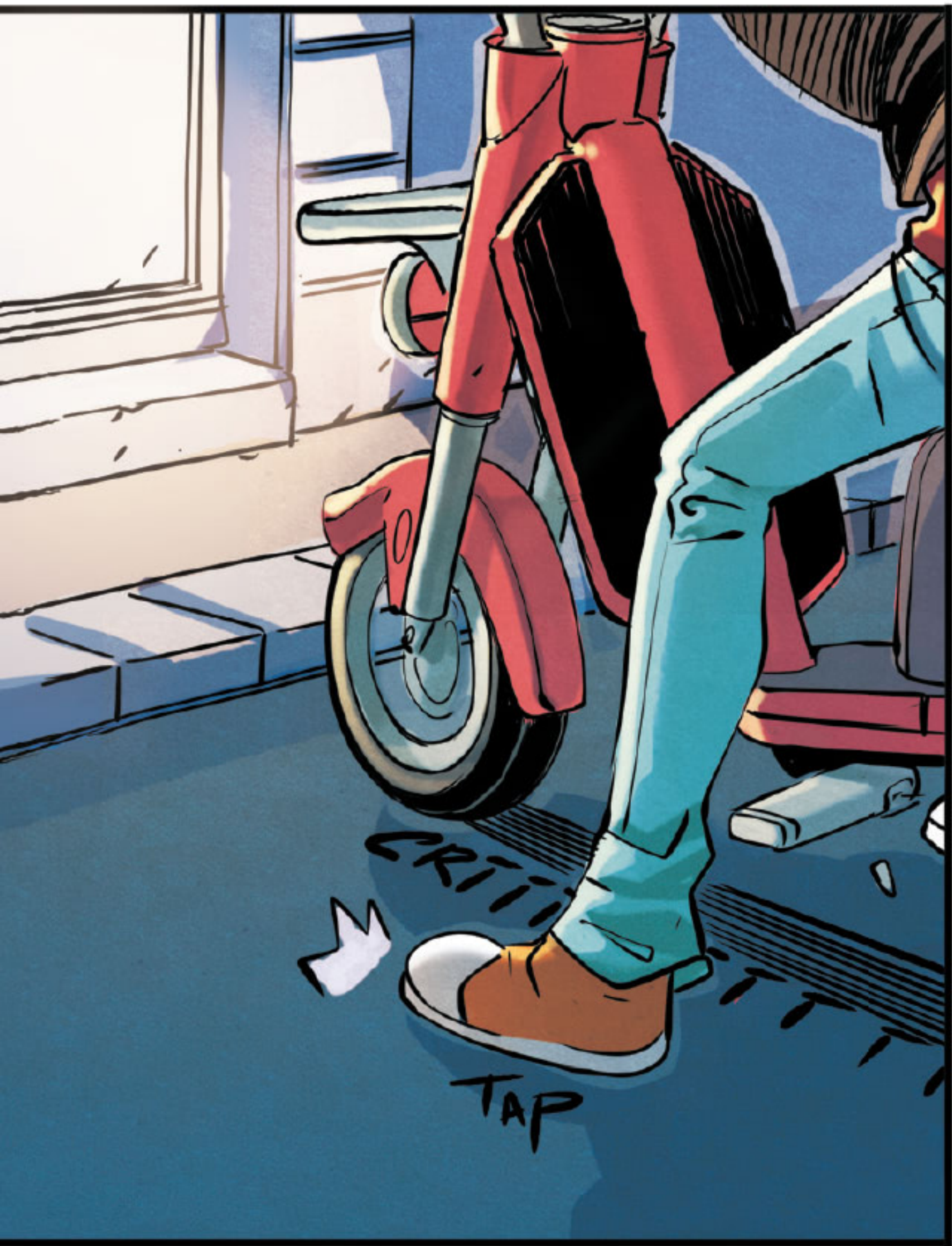
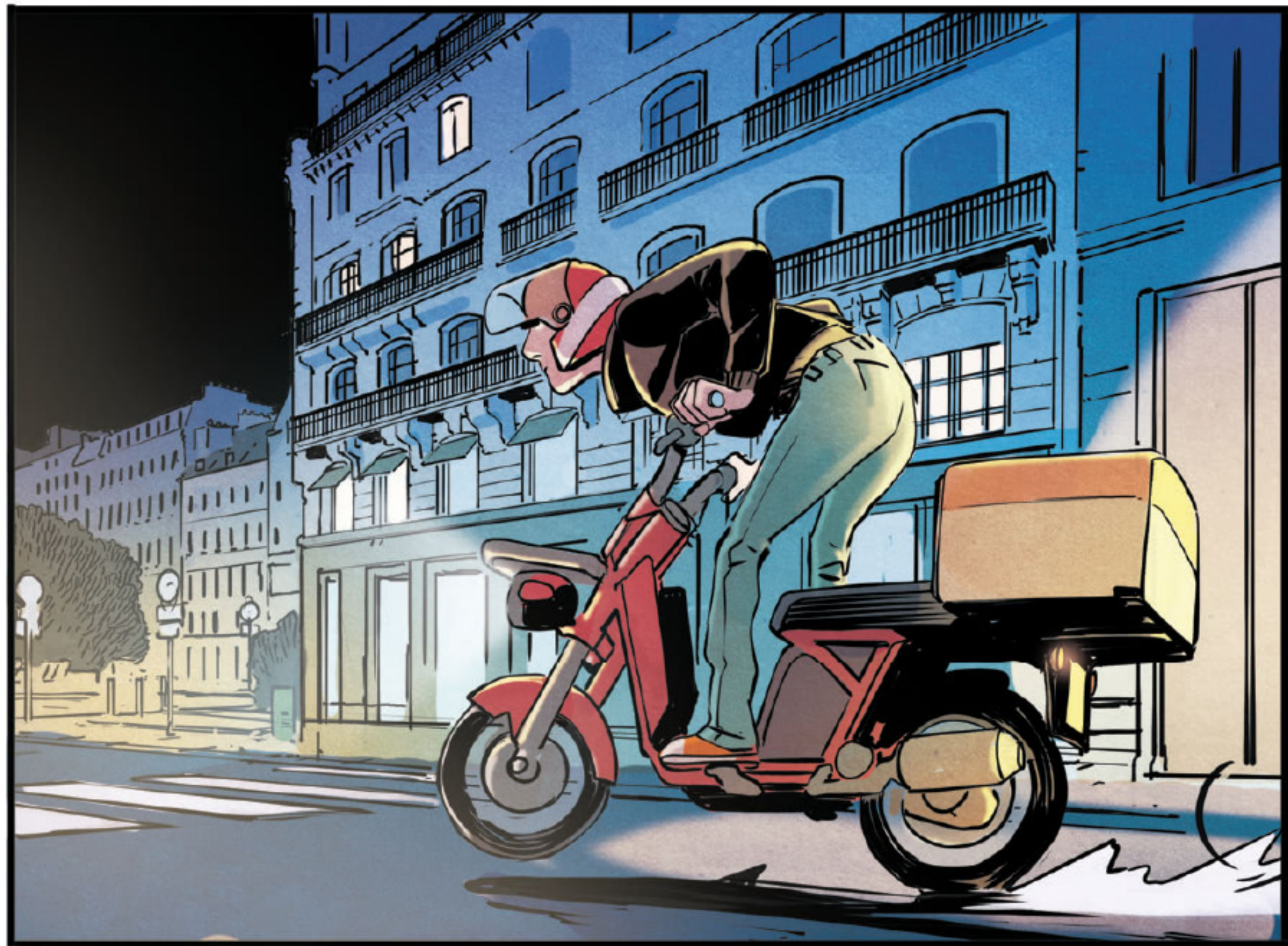
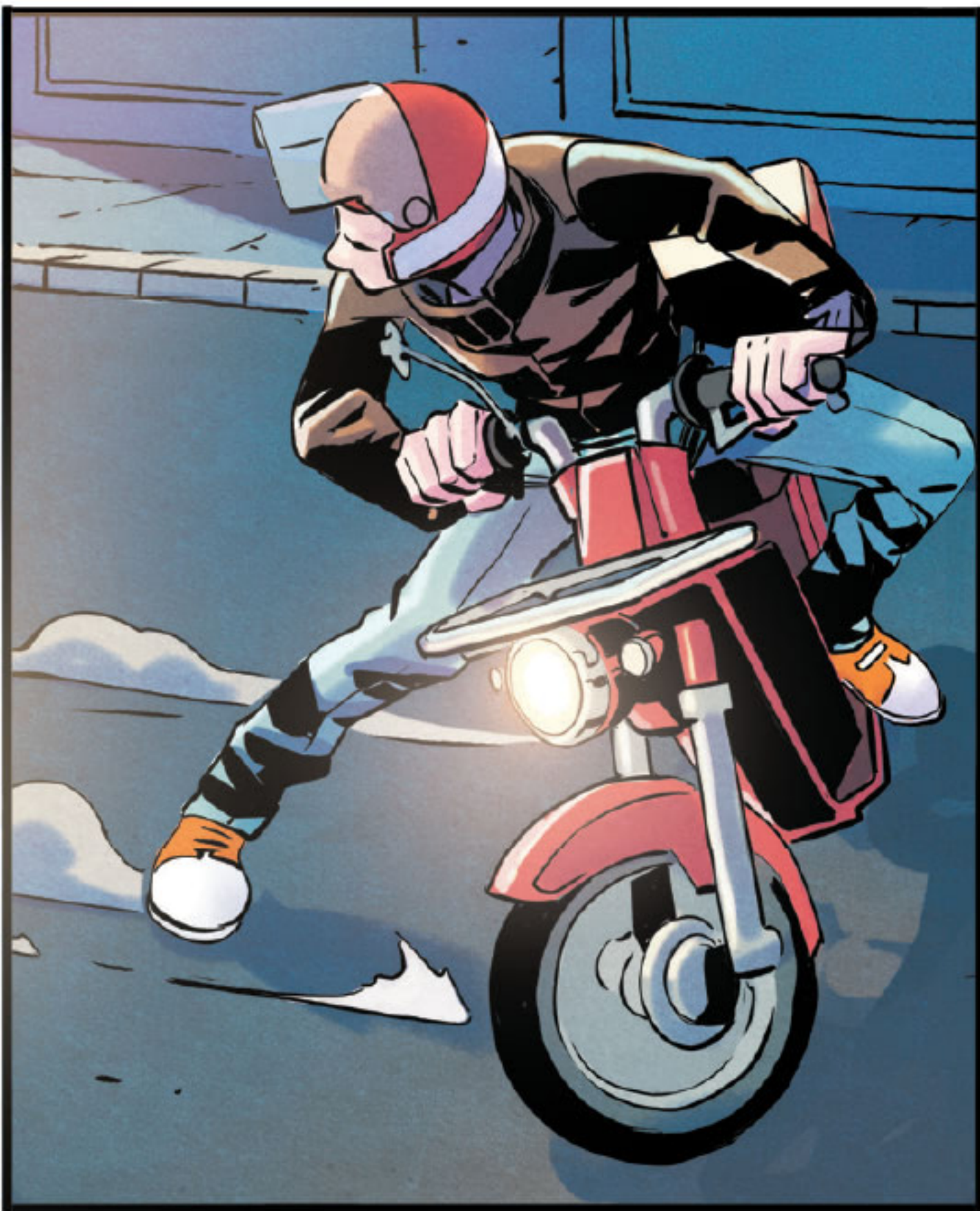
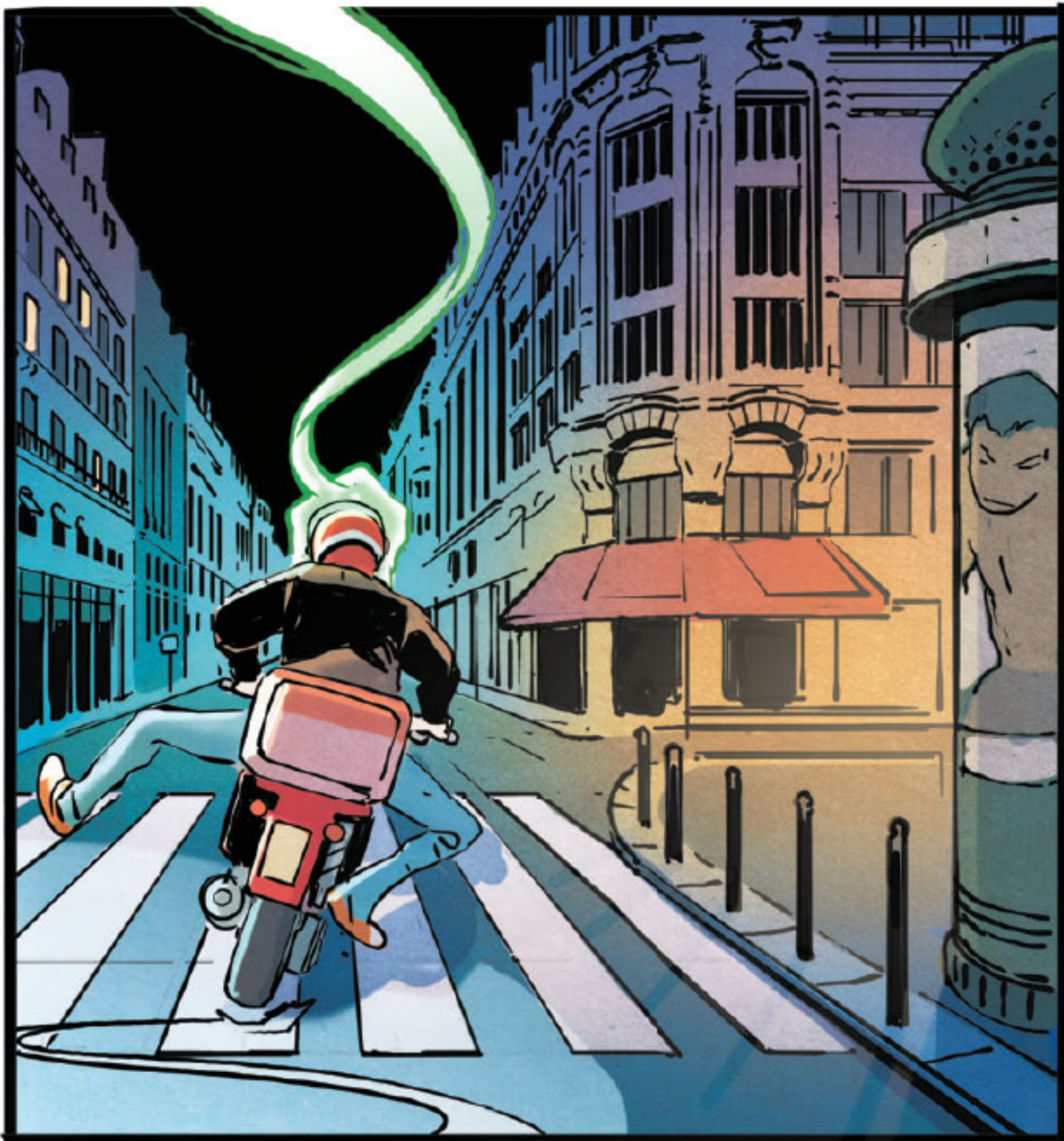
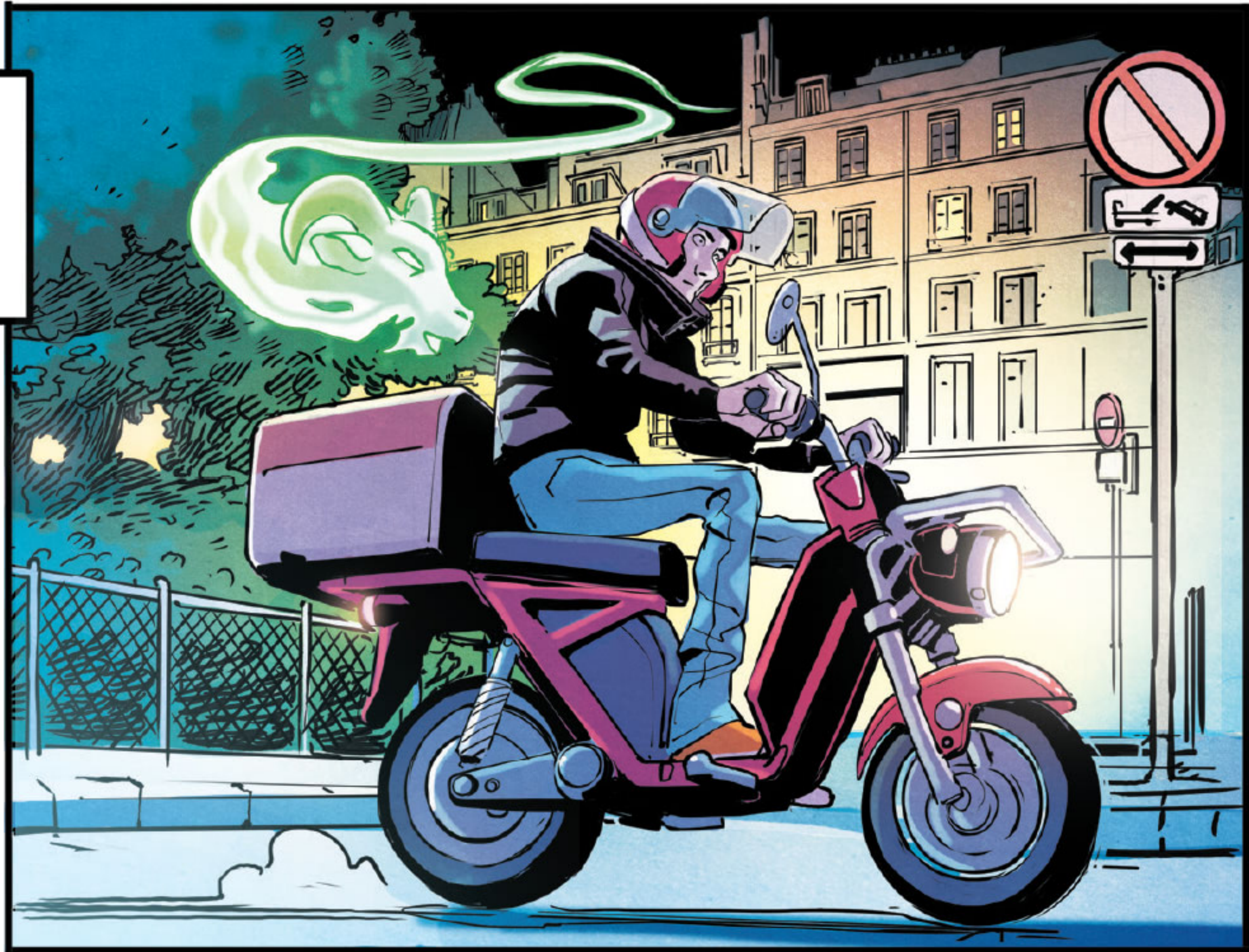
BUT I BELIEVE YOU.

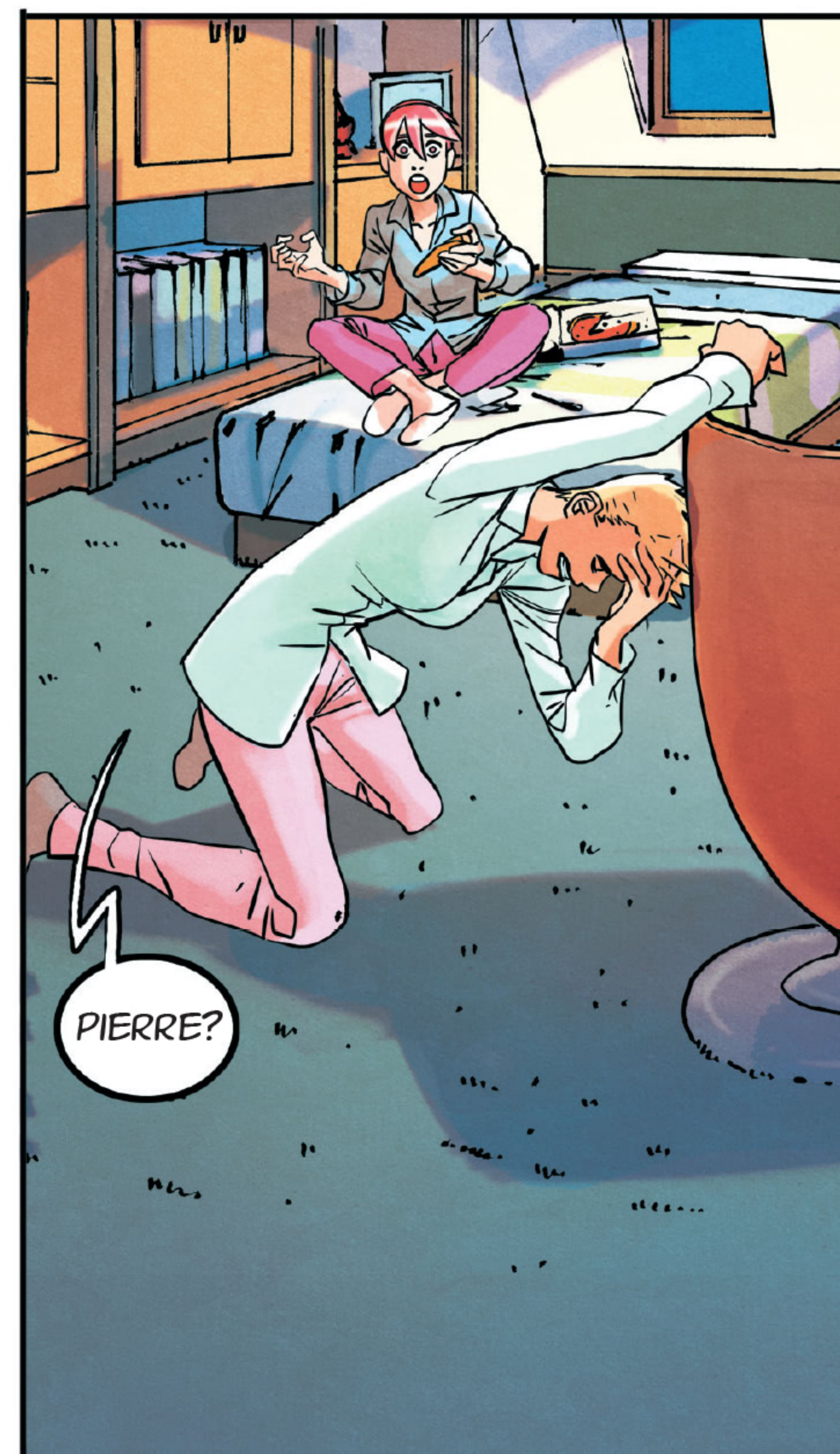
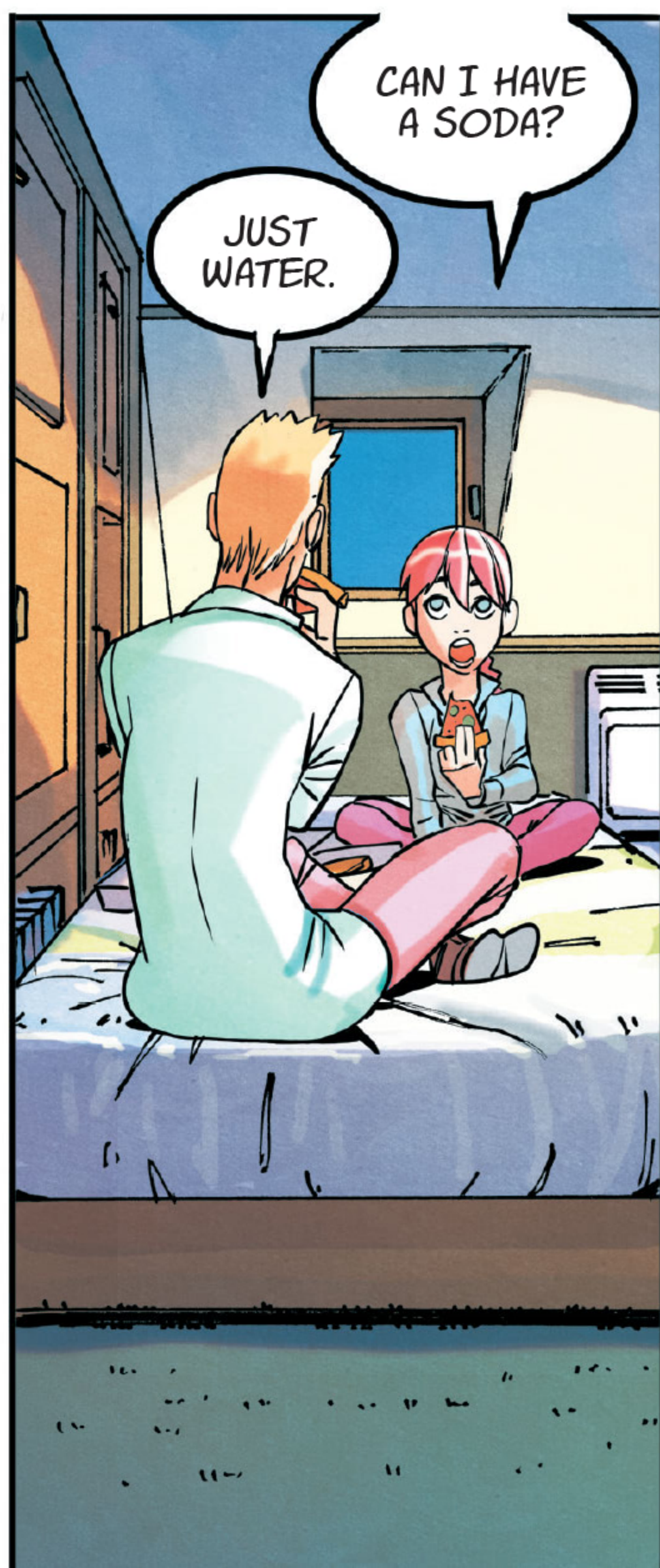
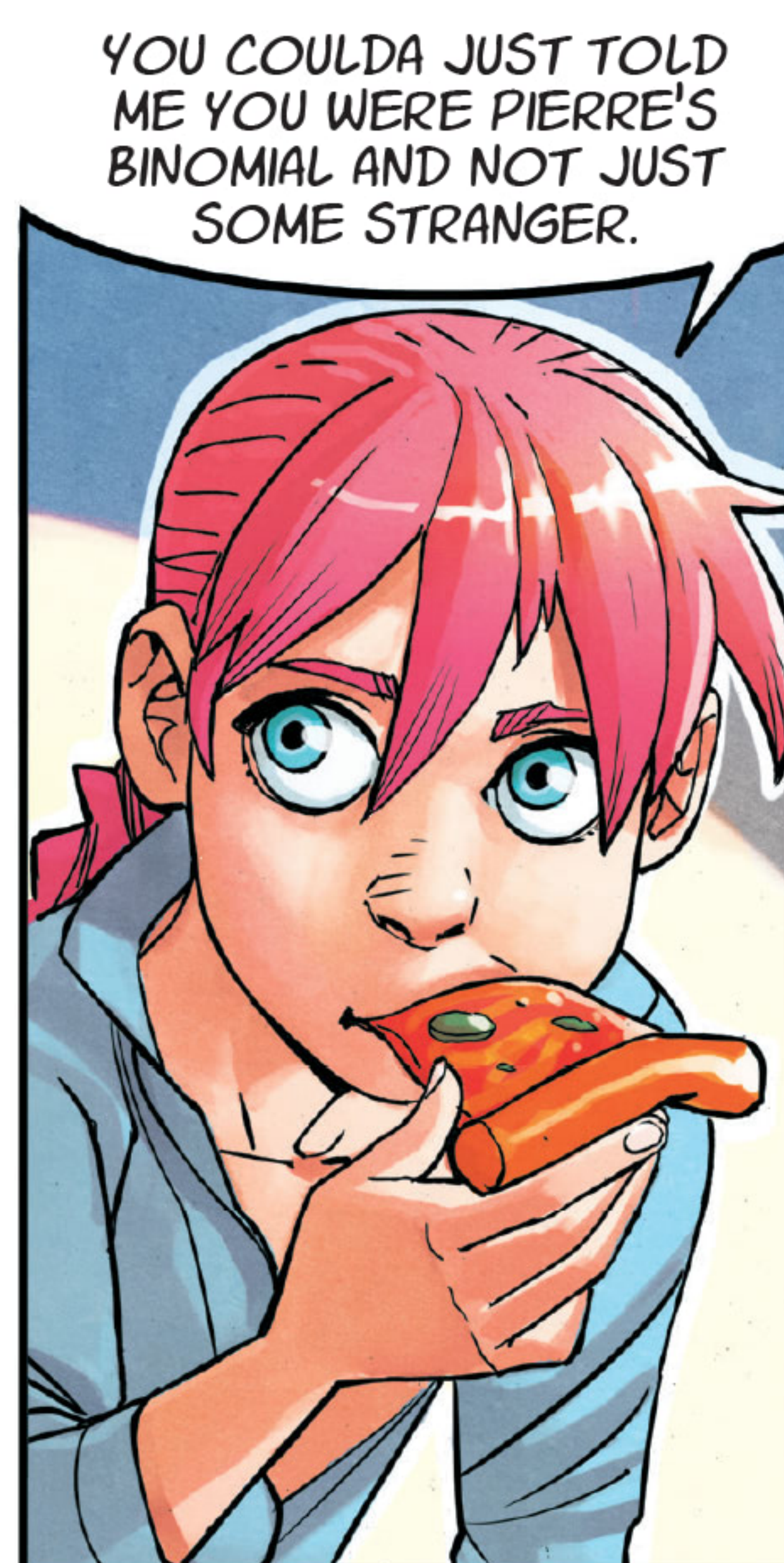
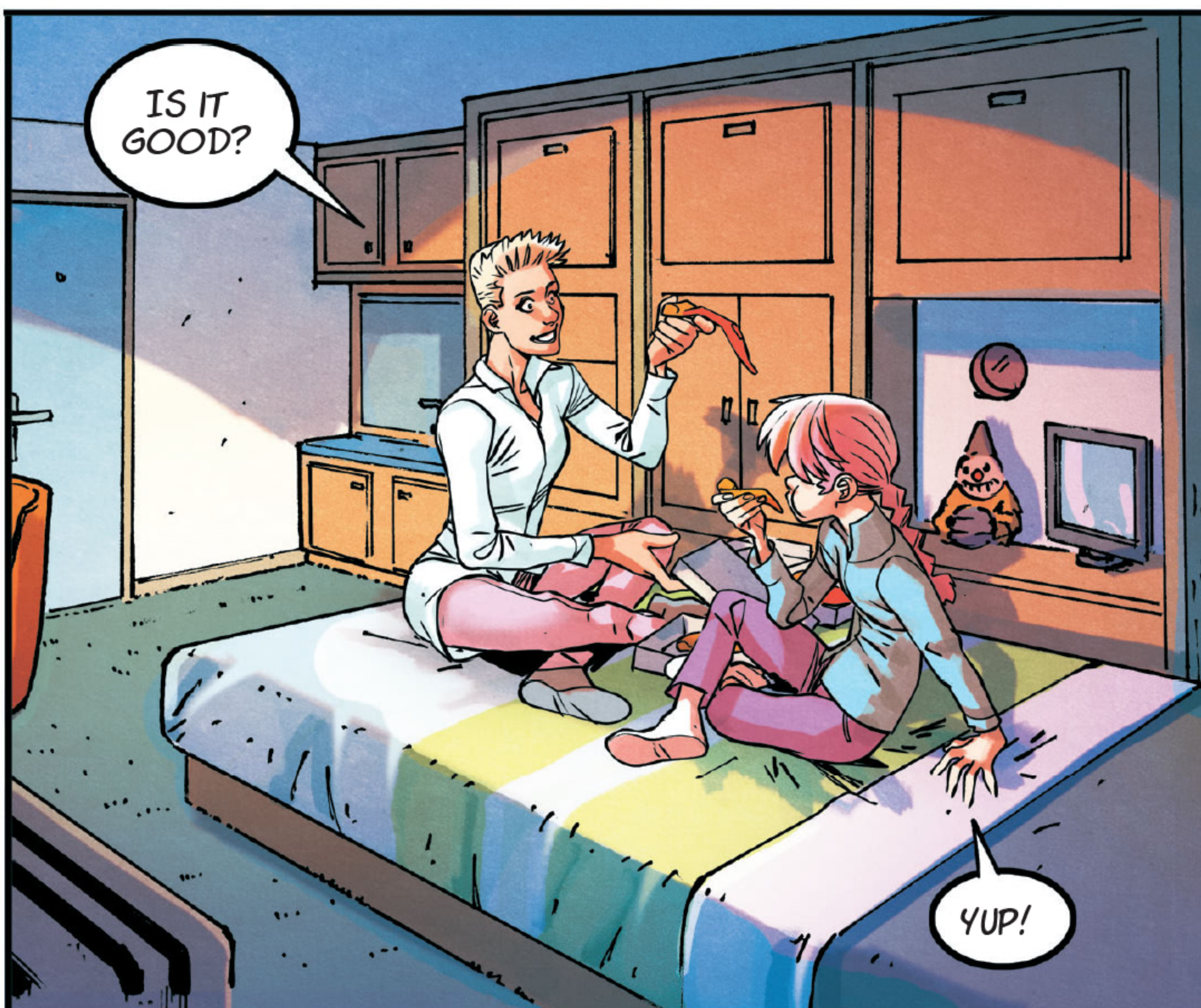
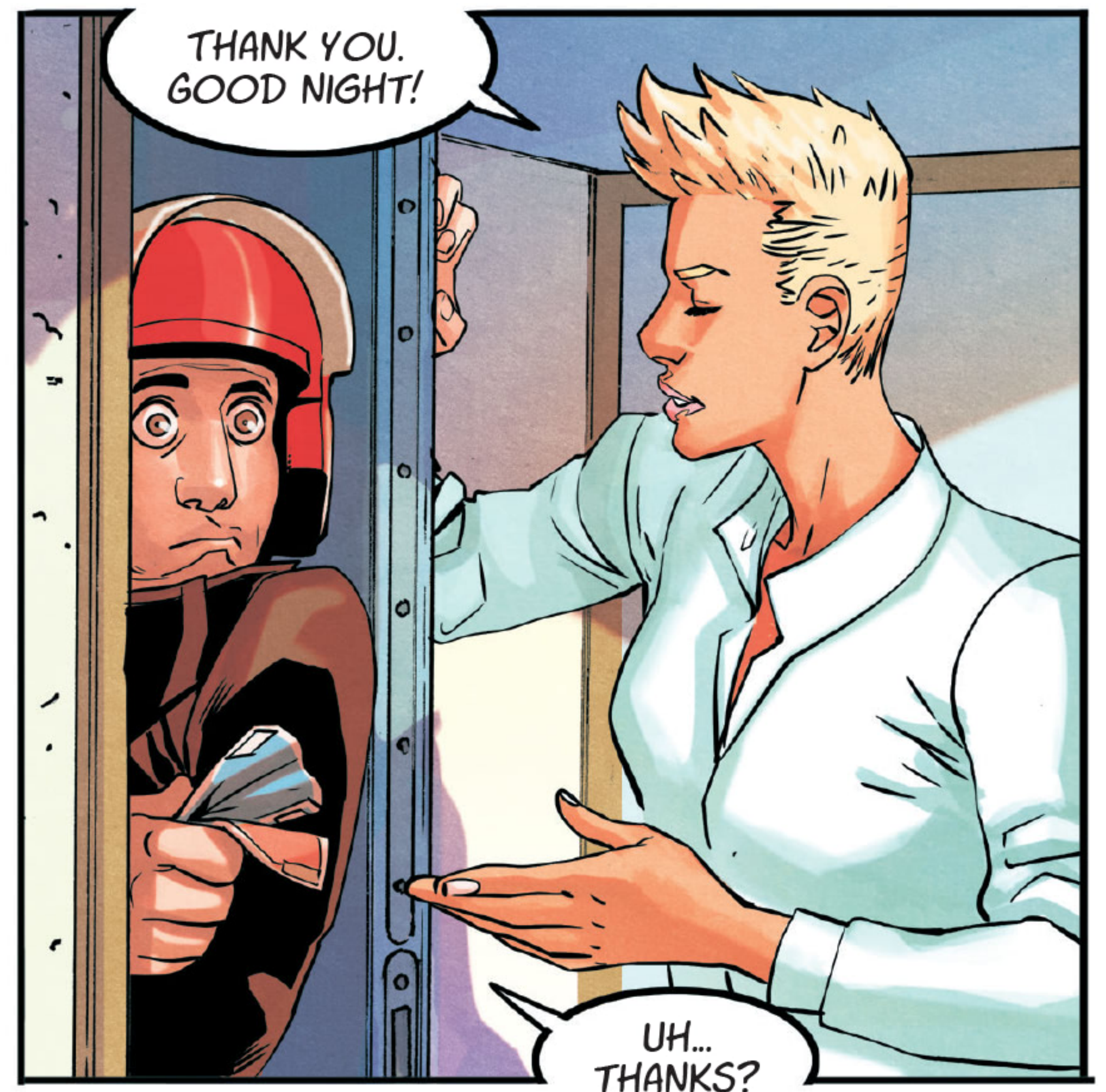
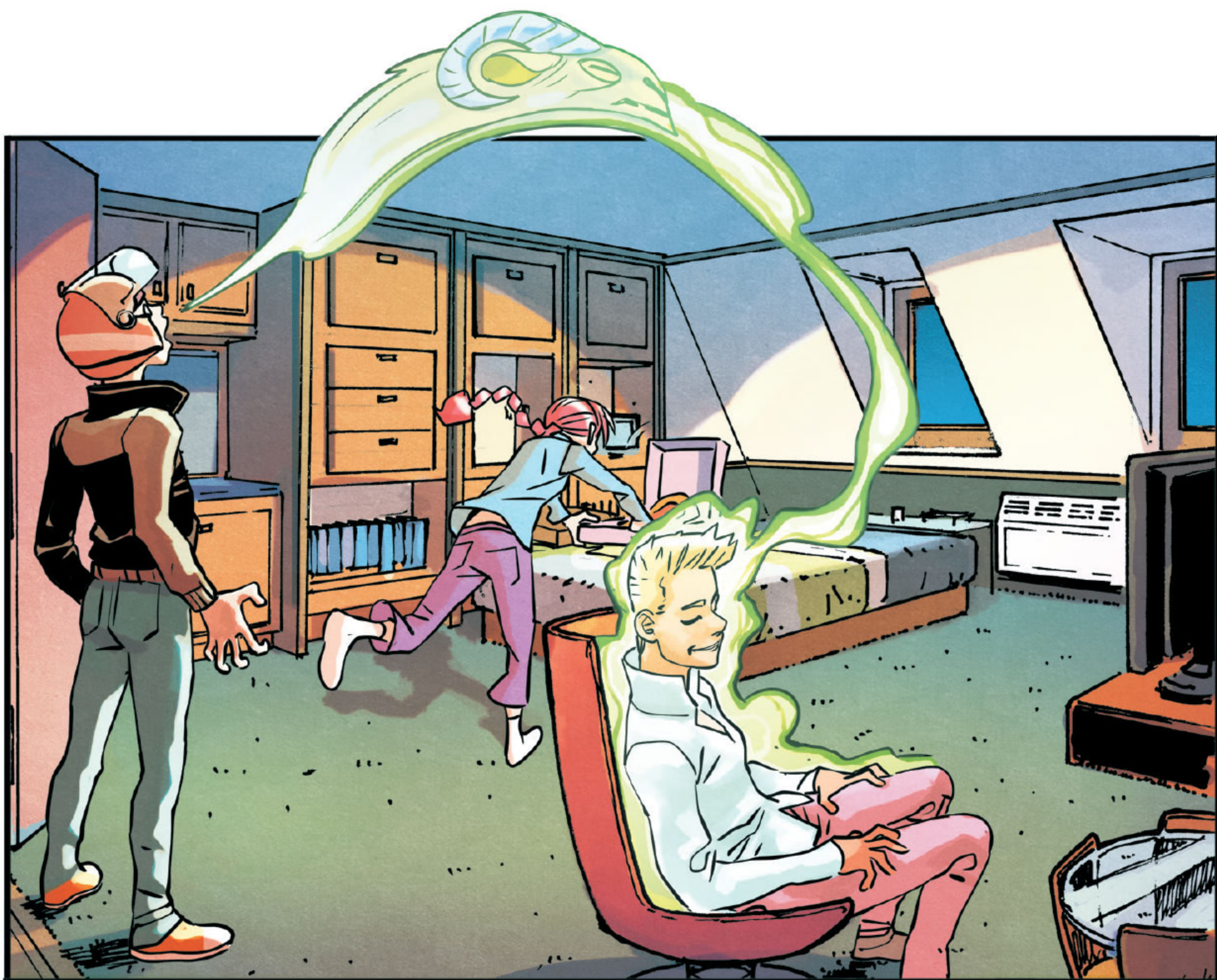


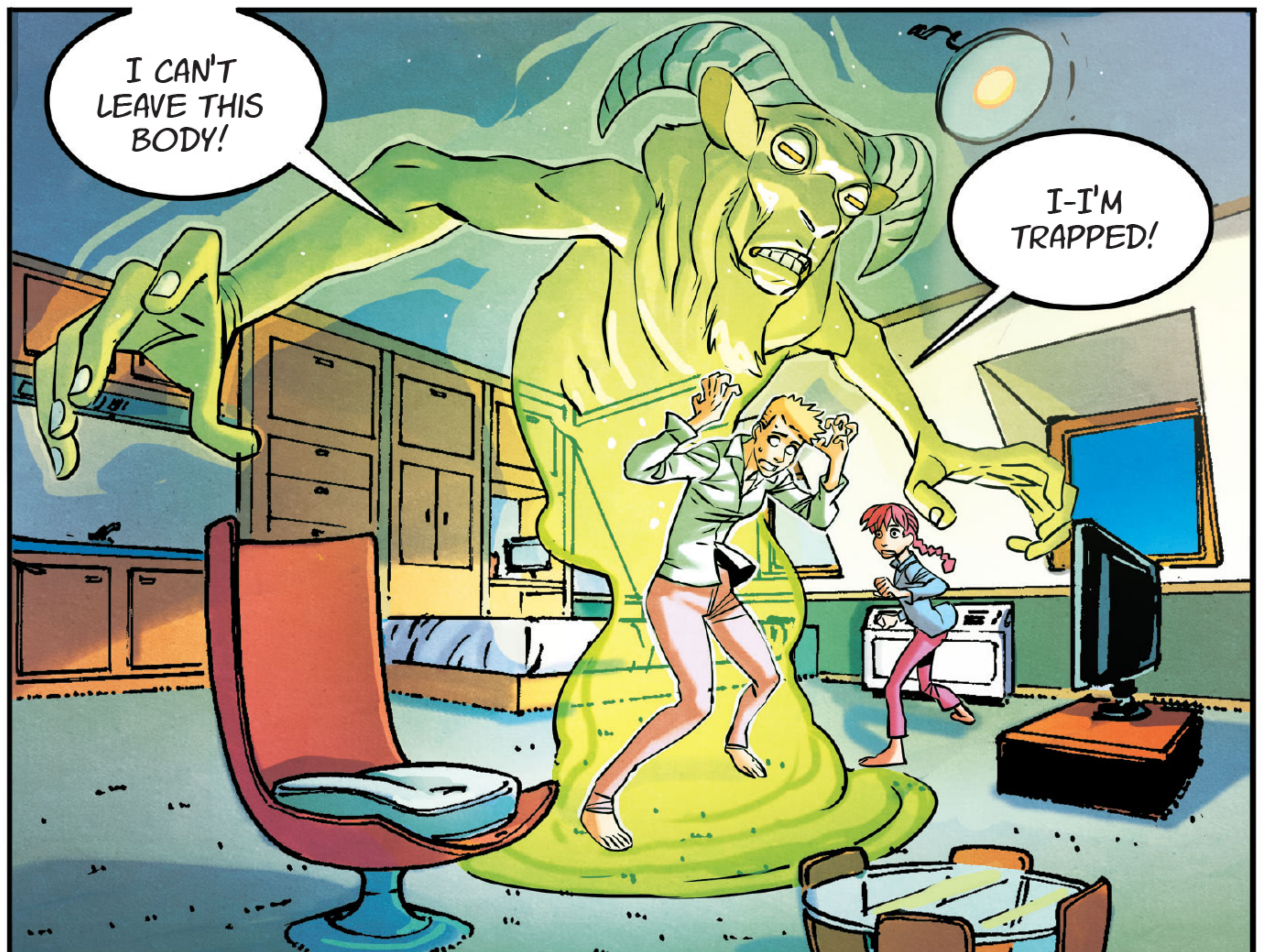
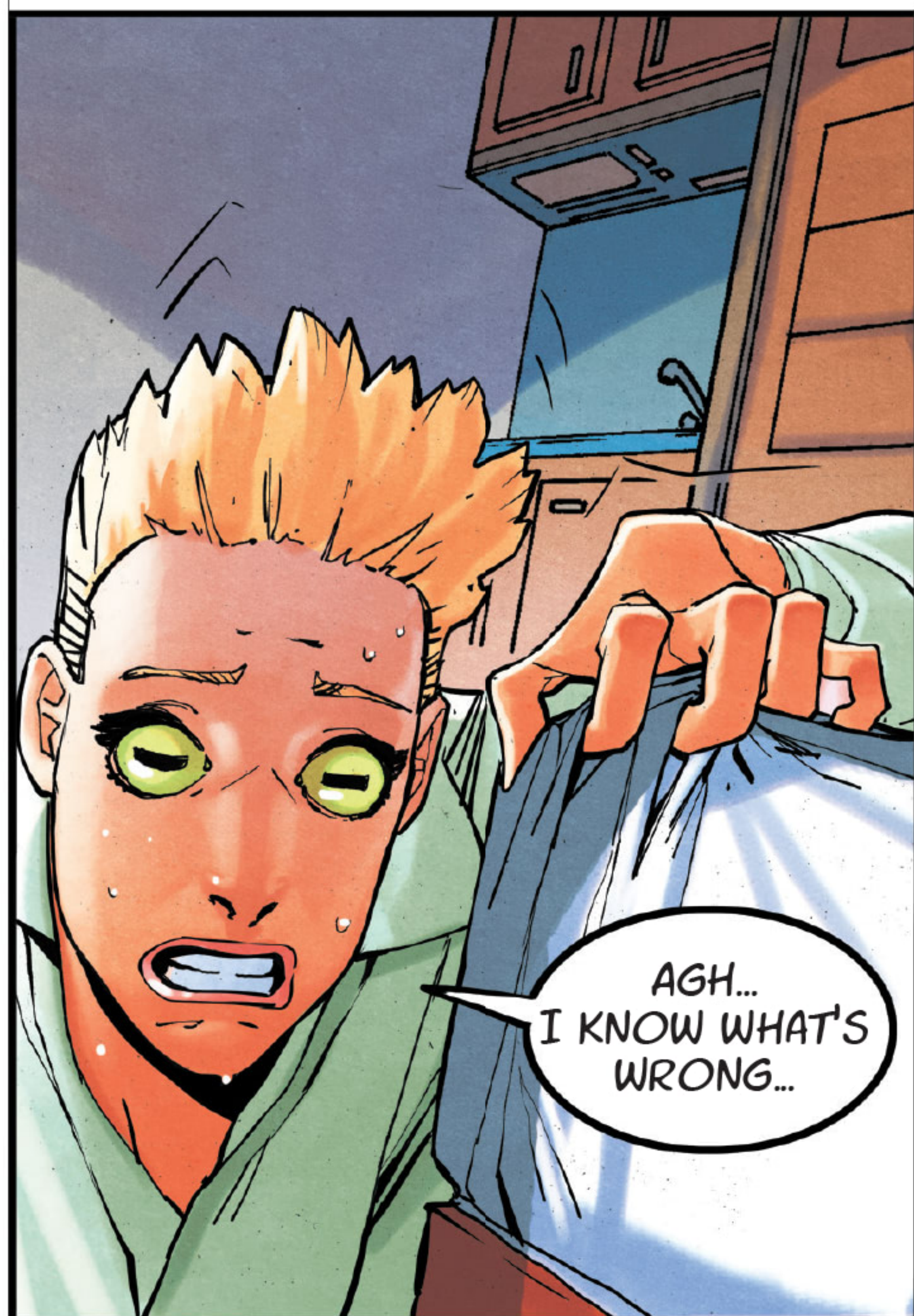
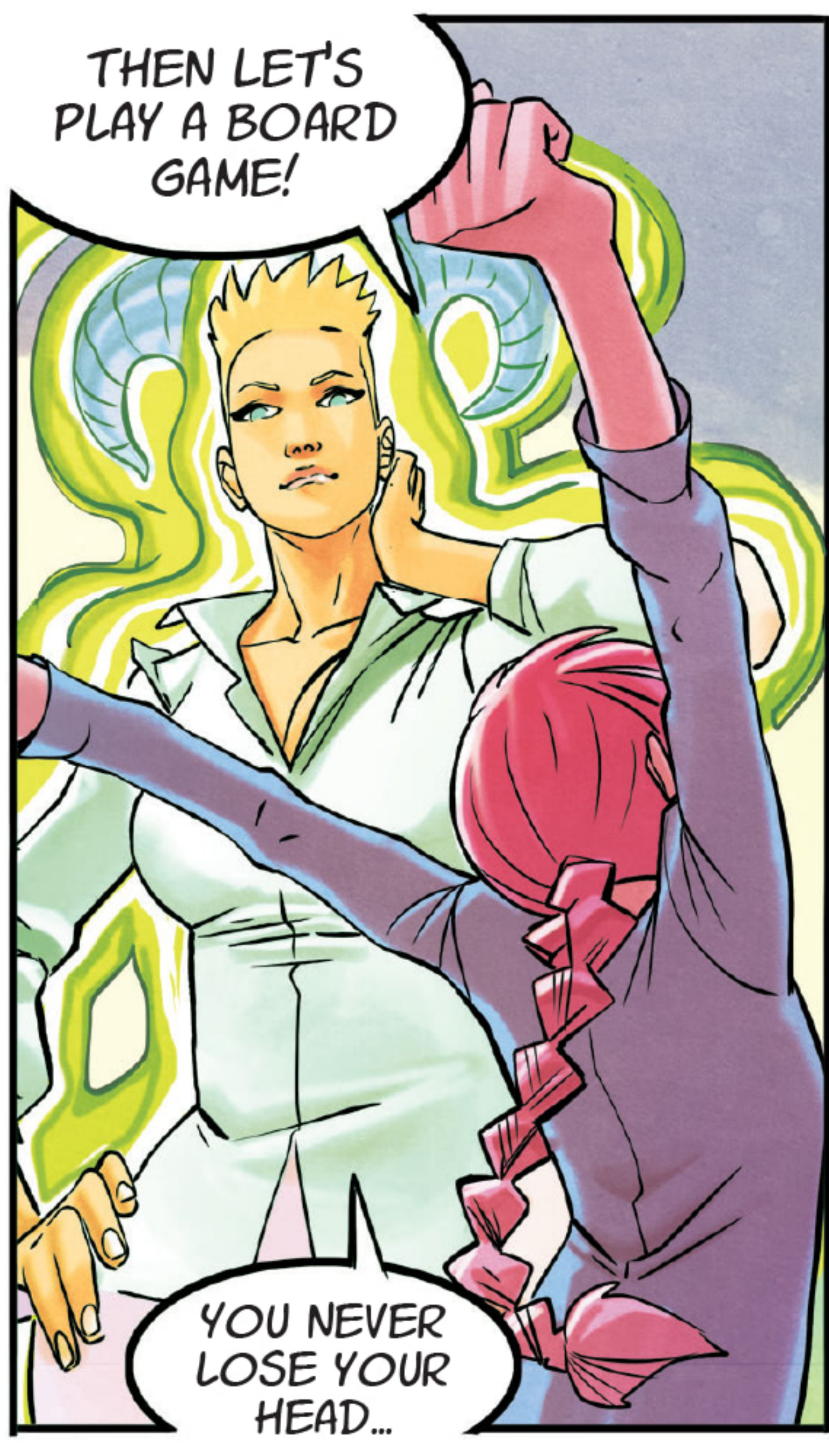
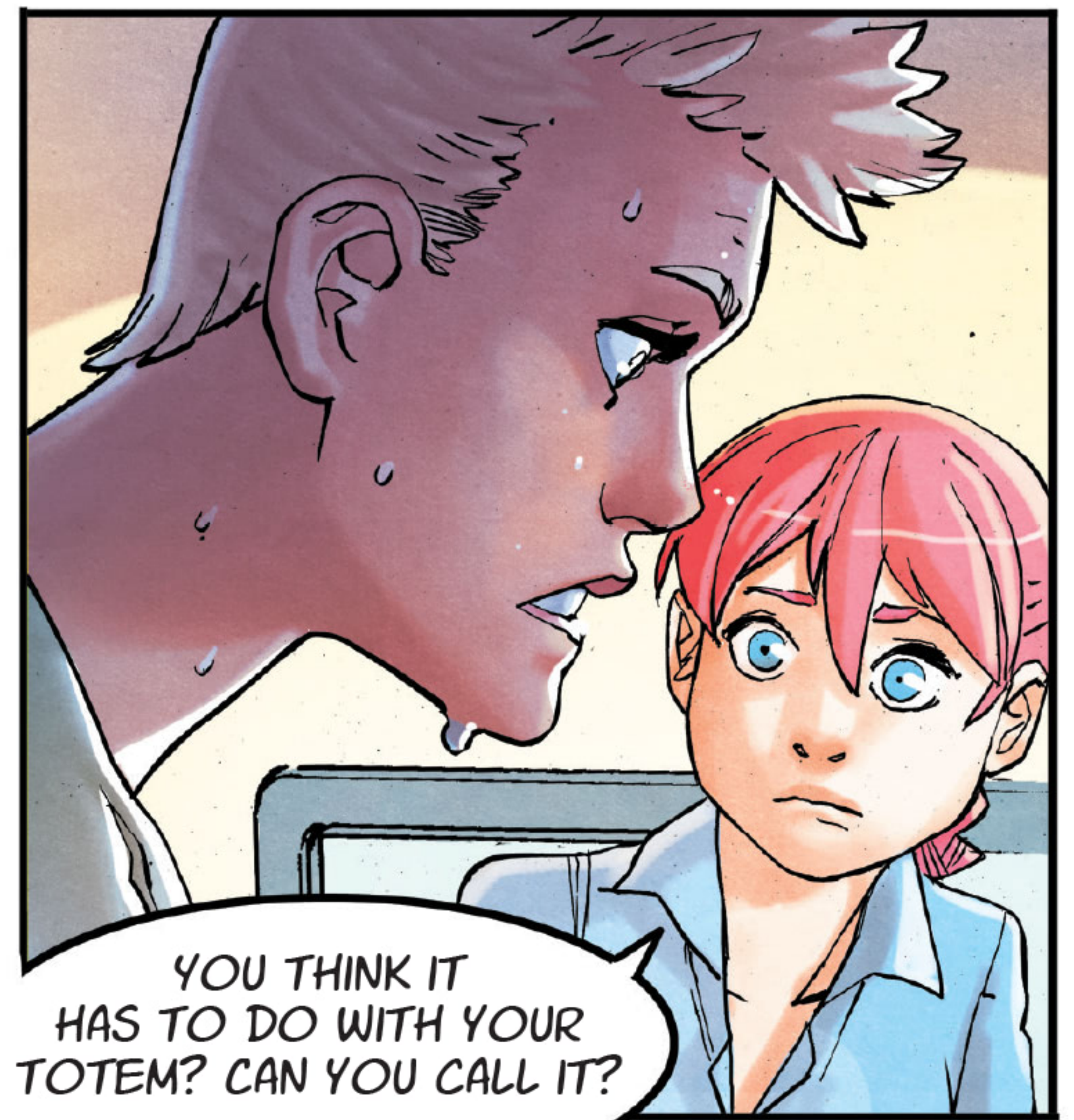
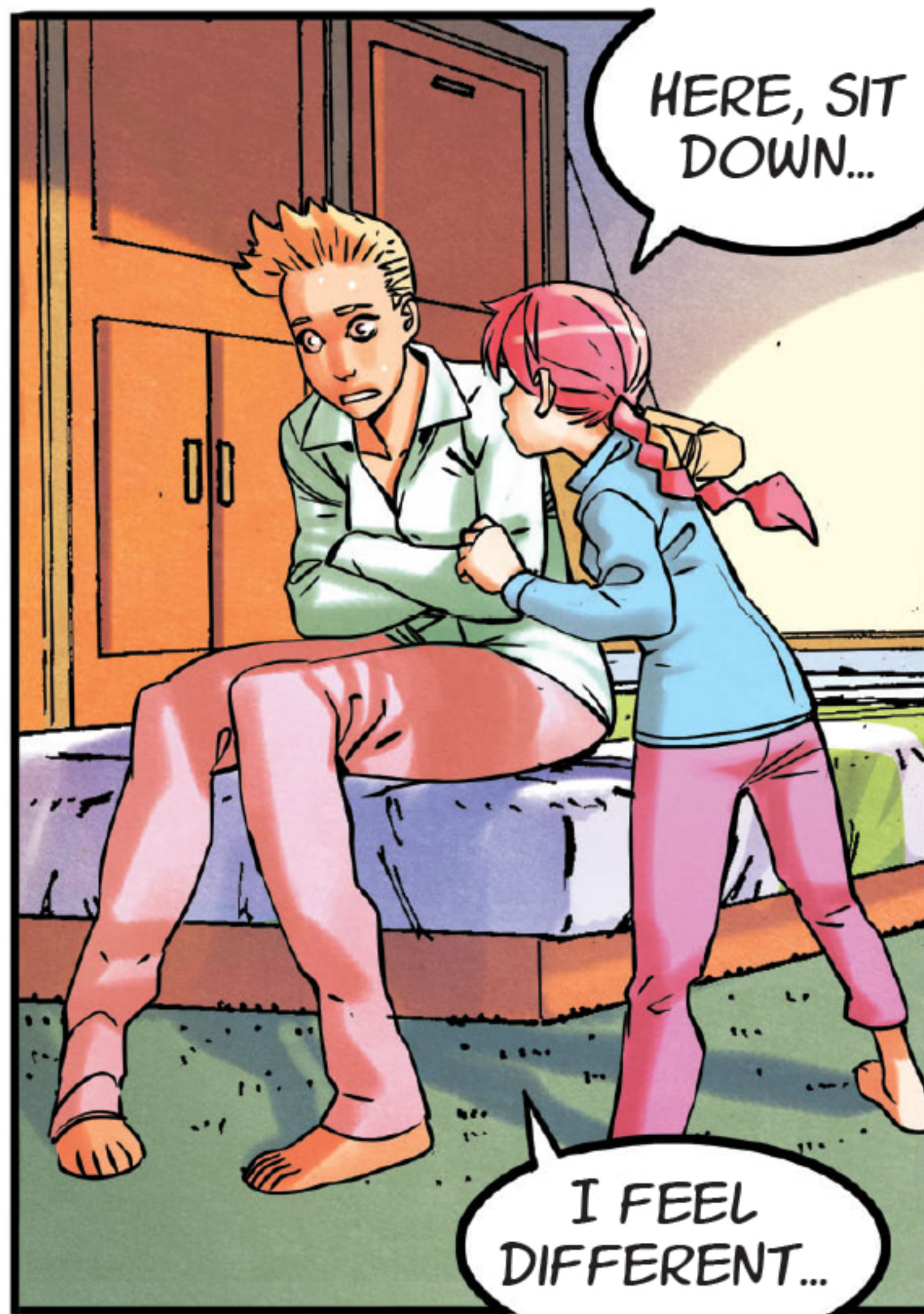
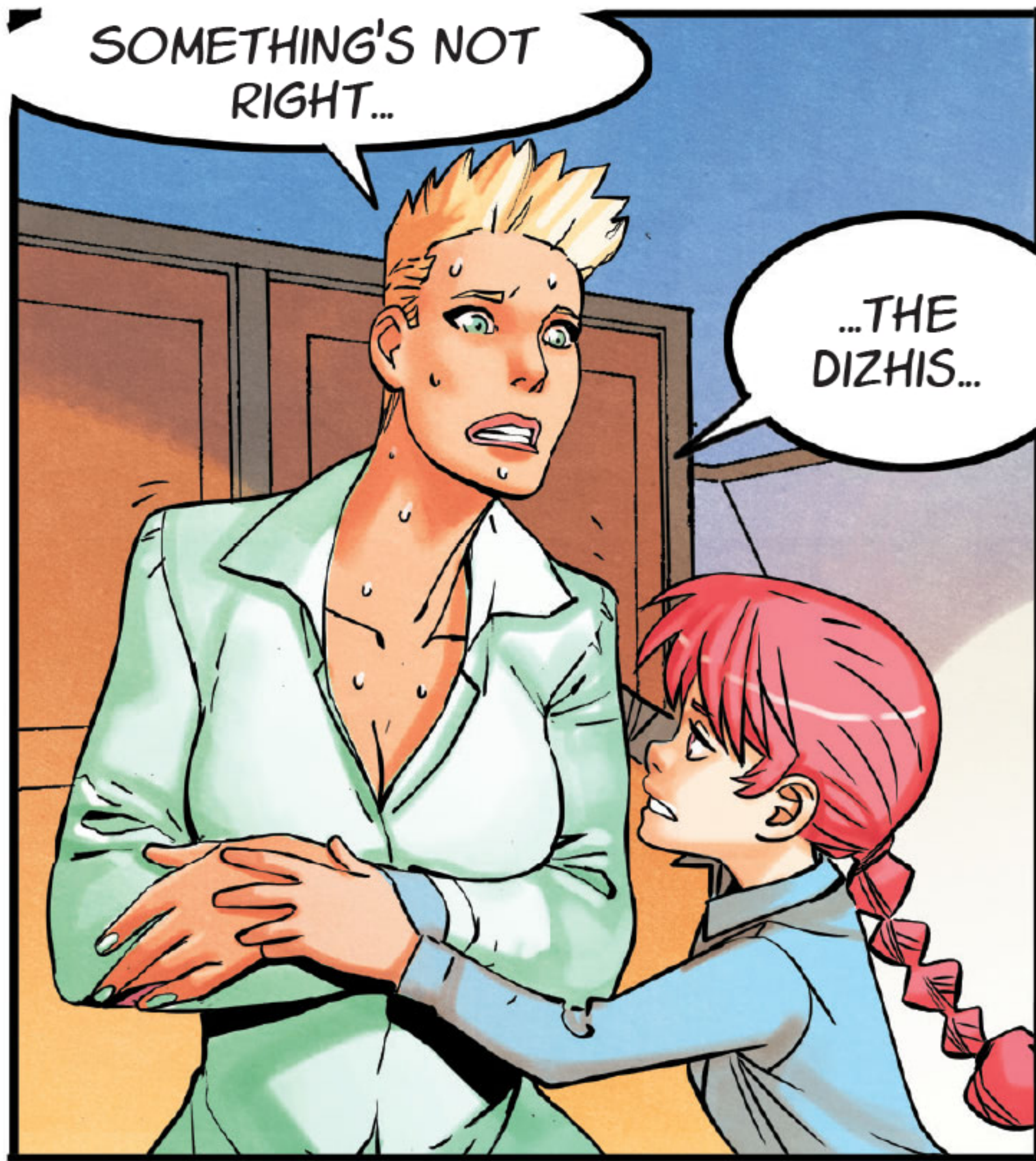
SO GO FIND THE REAL GOAT. NOW.



"WRONG QUESTION. ASK YOURSELF WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU DON'T...!"









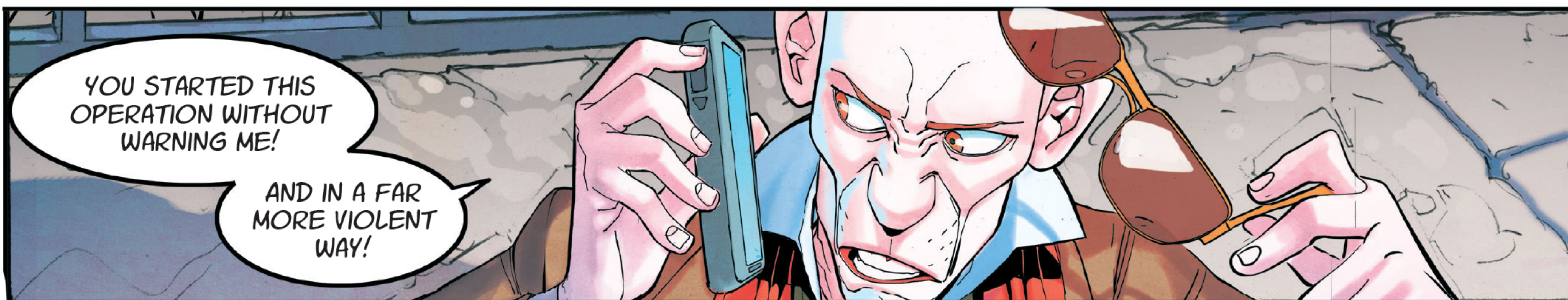
YES?

WHERE ARE YOU?

THINGS ARE A MESS...



DAVID? THINGS MUST BE REALLY BAD FOR THE OWL TO CALL ME DIRECTLY...



YOU STARTED THIS OPERATION WITHOUT WARNING ME!

AND IN A FAR MORE VIOLENT WAY!



HEY, YOU WENT INTO HIDING...

...ARE YOU SCARED?

LISTEN, AS MUCH AS I ENJOY PLAYING CAT AND MOUSE WITH YOU, I'M RATHER BUSY.

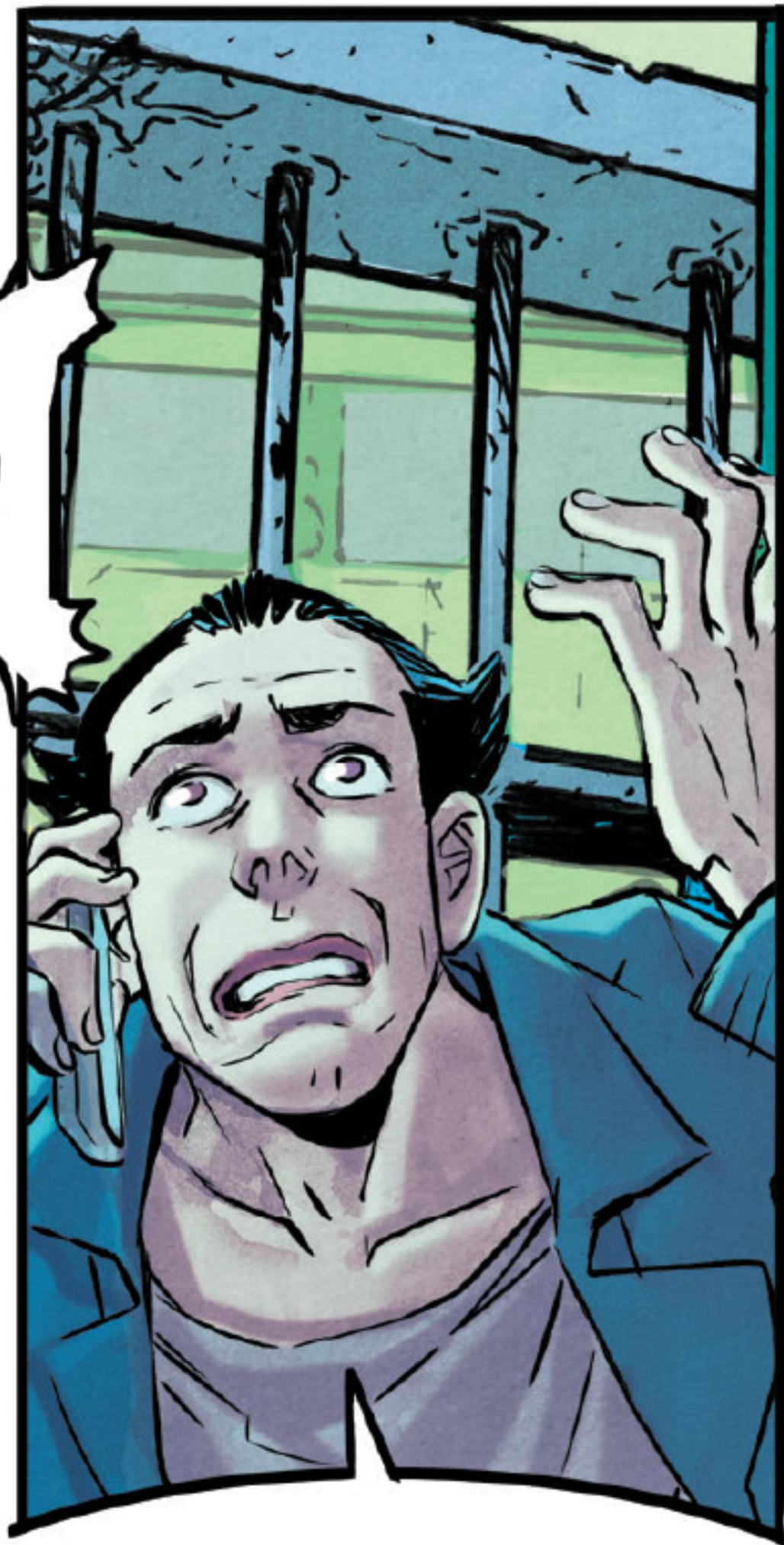
SO WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHY YOU CALLED?

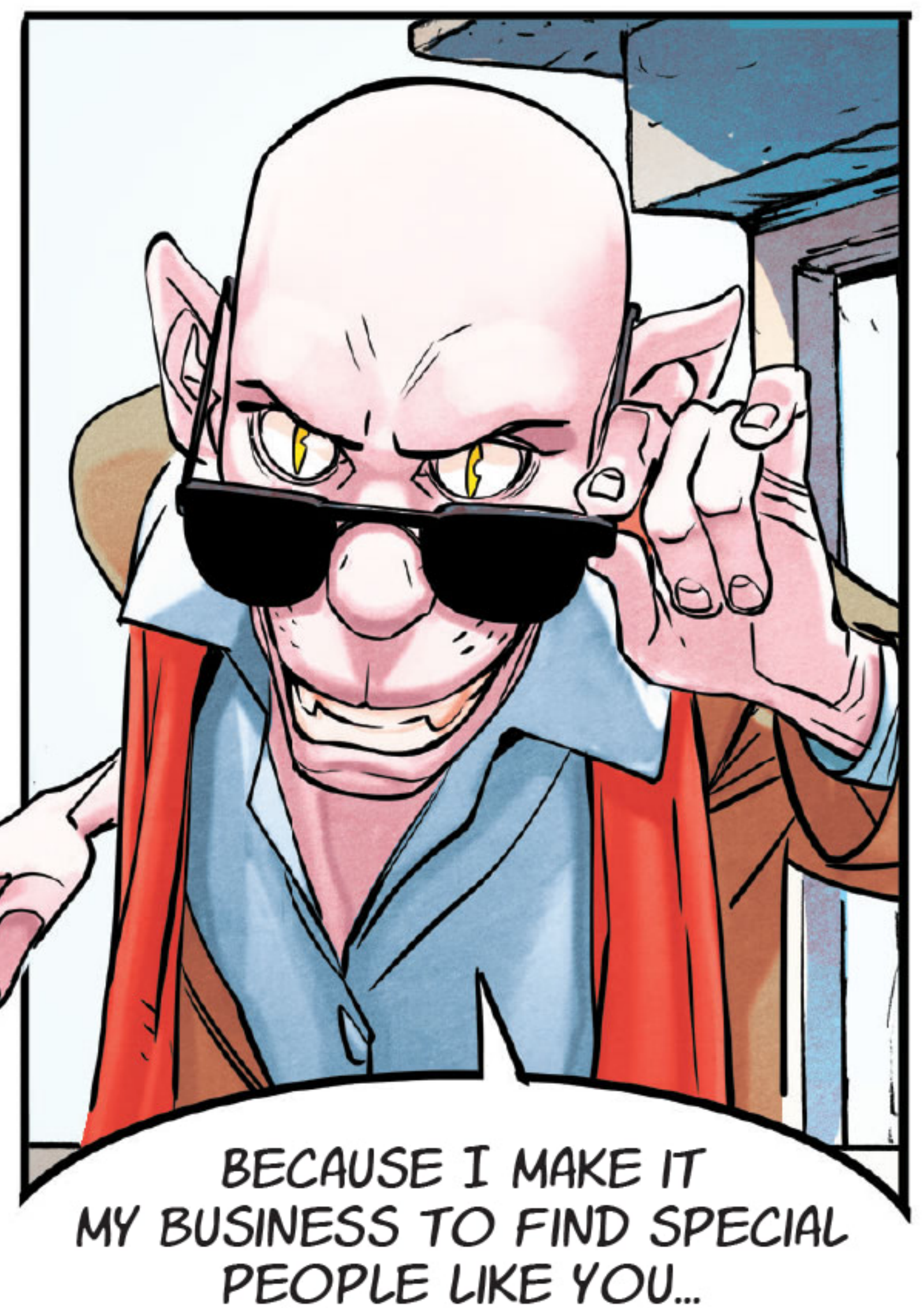
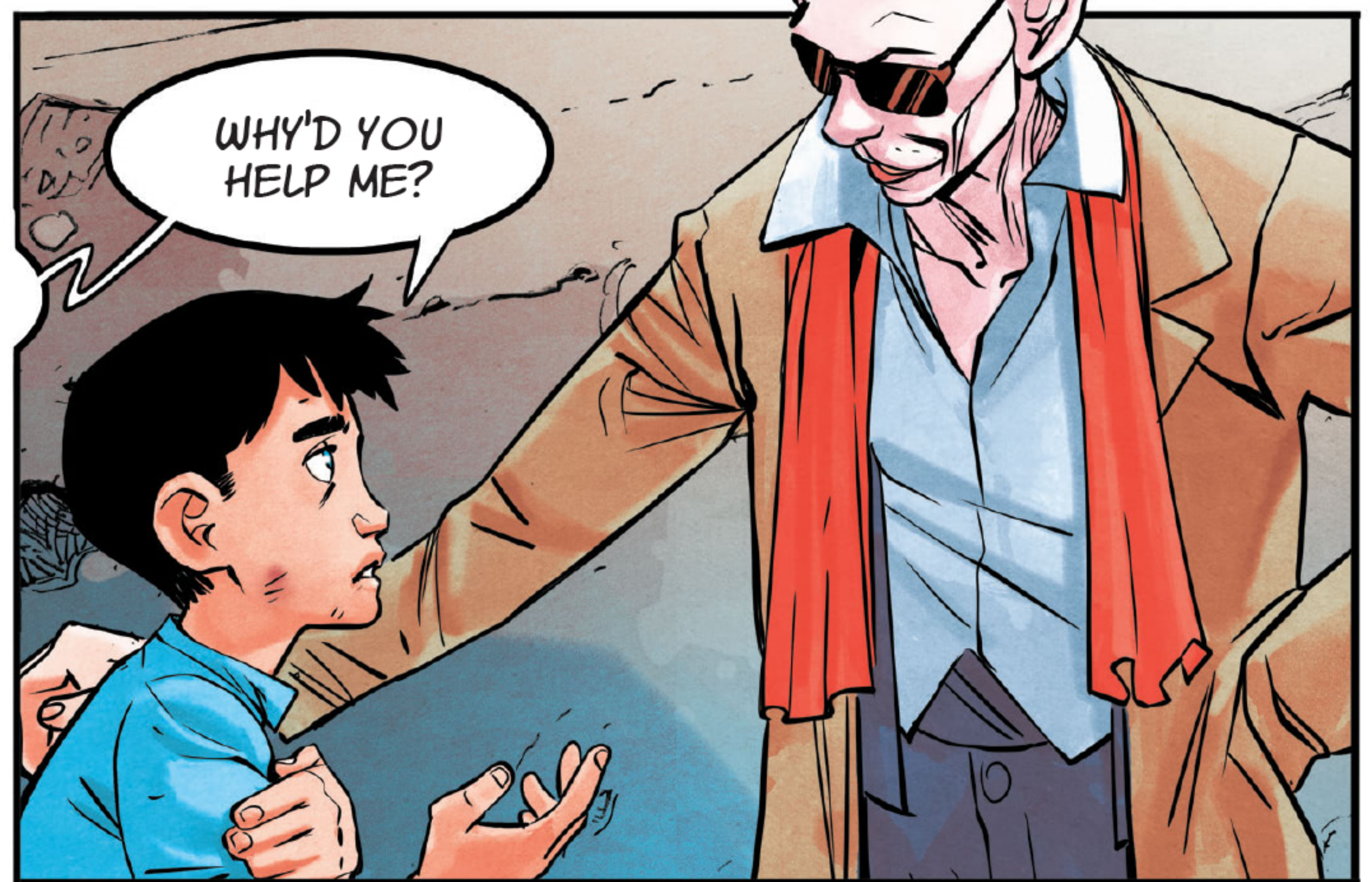


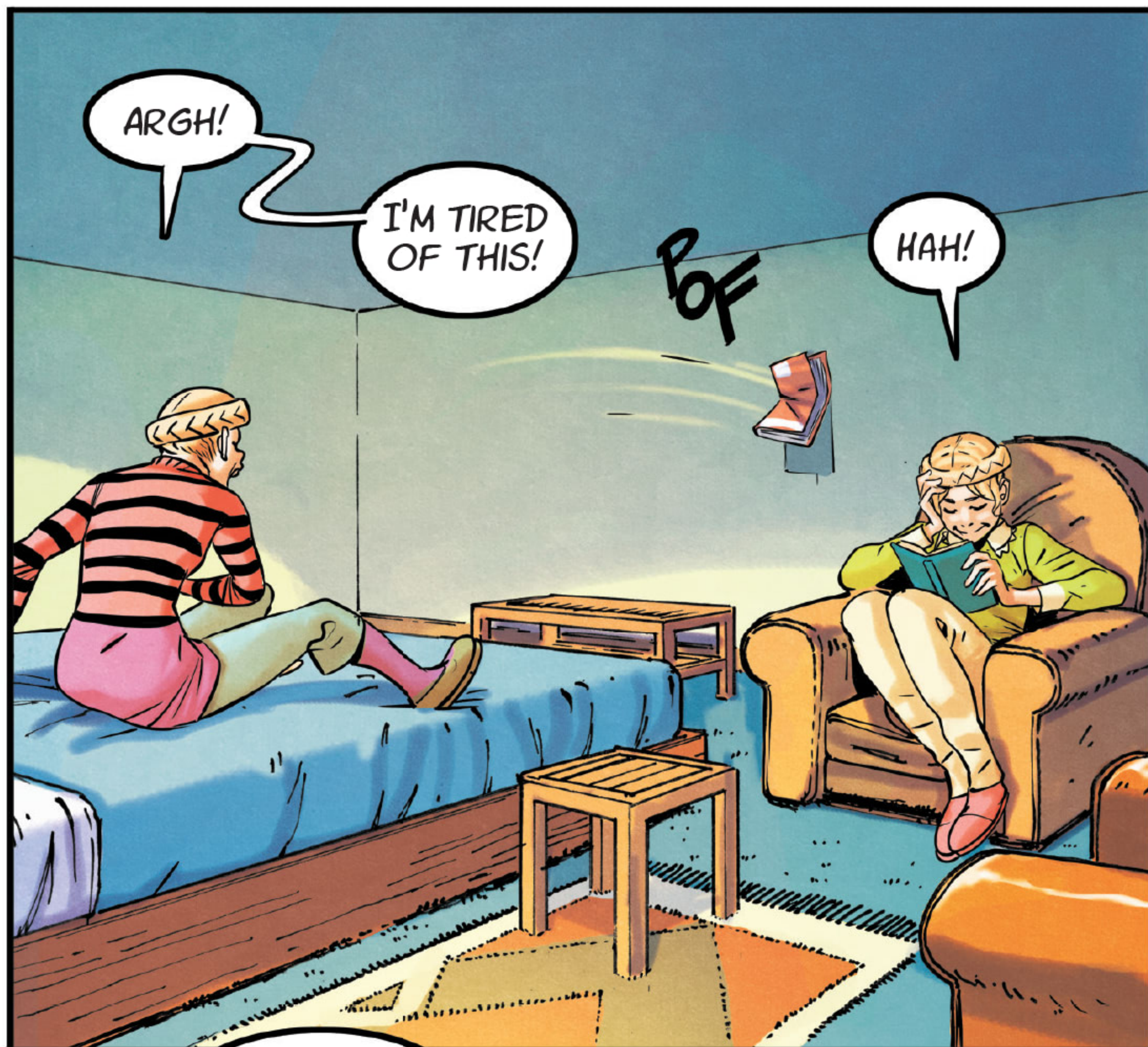
IT'S... GETTING OUT OF CONTROL AGAIN.

LITTLE PIERRE IS DEAD.

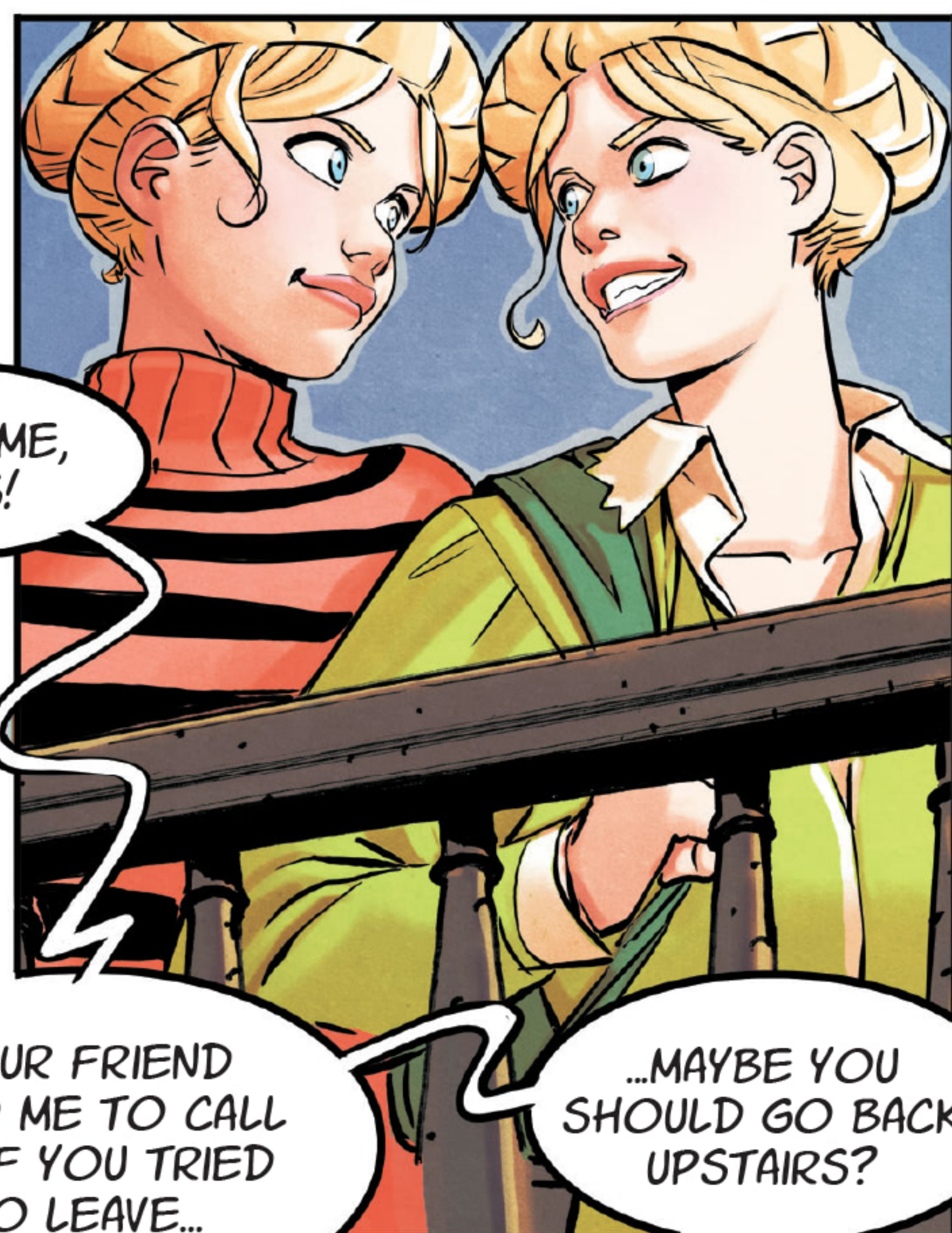
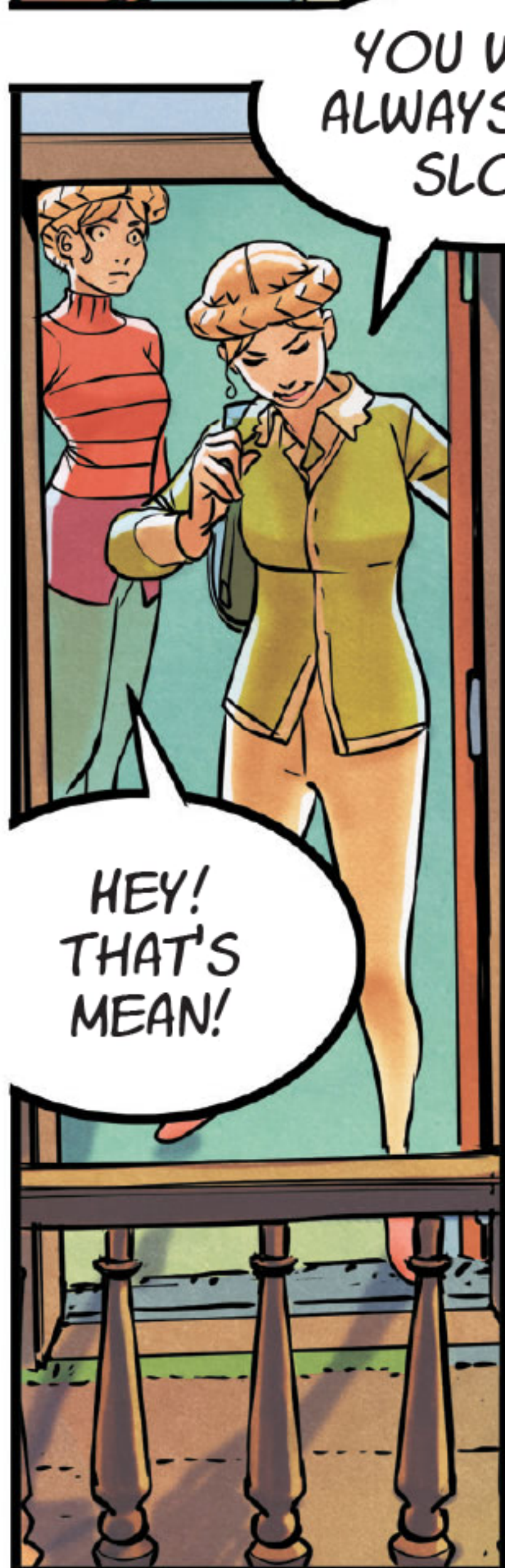








ANGEL'S BEING HELD PRISONER AND WE CAN'T EXPECT SHAAZ TO GET HIM OUT. IT'S UP TO US.





HAHA!
SHOULD WE
HAVE TIED HIM
UP, TOO?

NO POINT. WE'LL BE
LONG GONE WHEN HE WAKES UP!



HANG
ON...

GIVE ME A
SECOND...



LIKE
I'VE GOT A
CHOICE?



WHAT
THE...?



WHAT'S THAT
FOR?!

SINCE YOU MADE
FUN OF ME BEFORE,
I THINK YOU OWE ME...



YOU BETTER NOT
BE THINKING WHAT I THINK
YOU'RE THINKING...

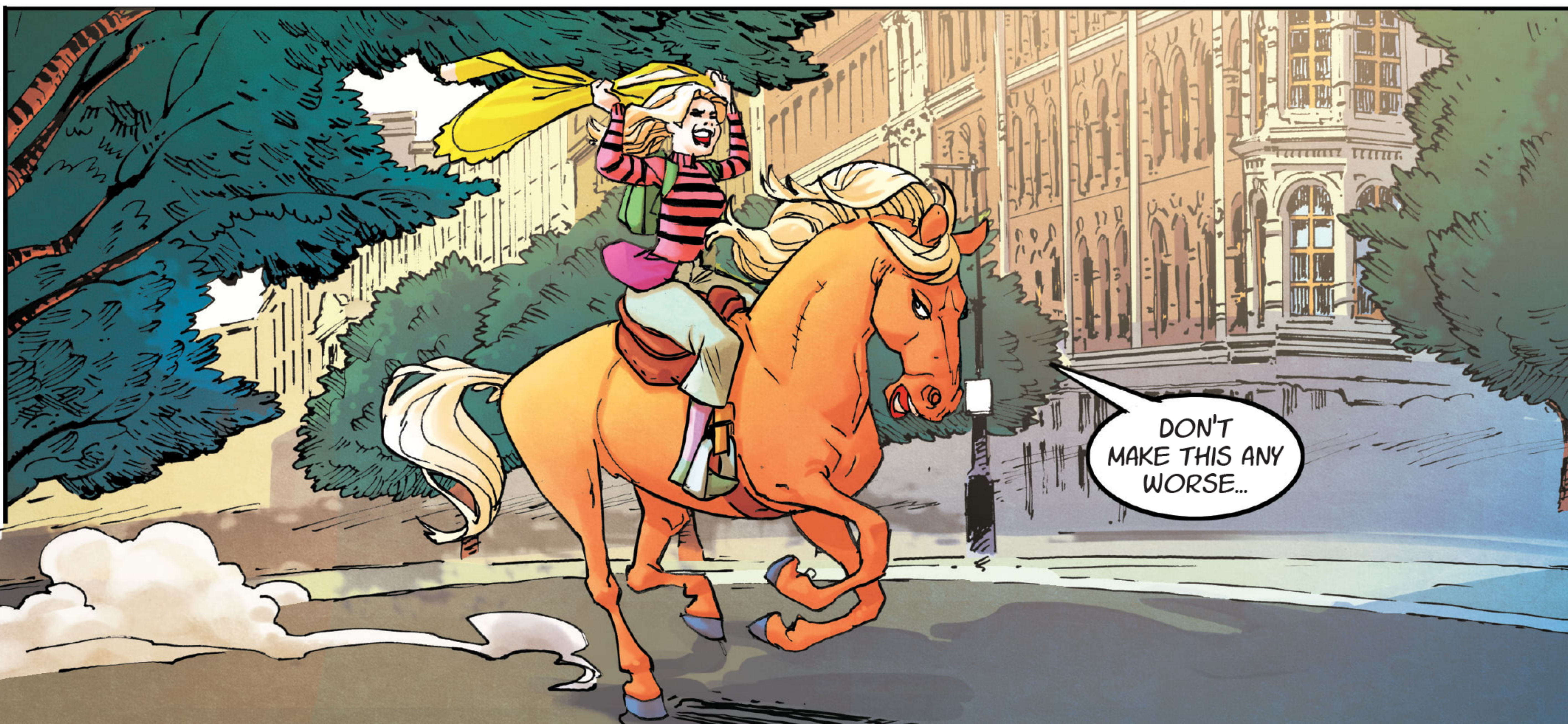


COME ON!
IT'LL BE FUN!

NO
WAY!



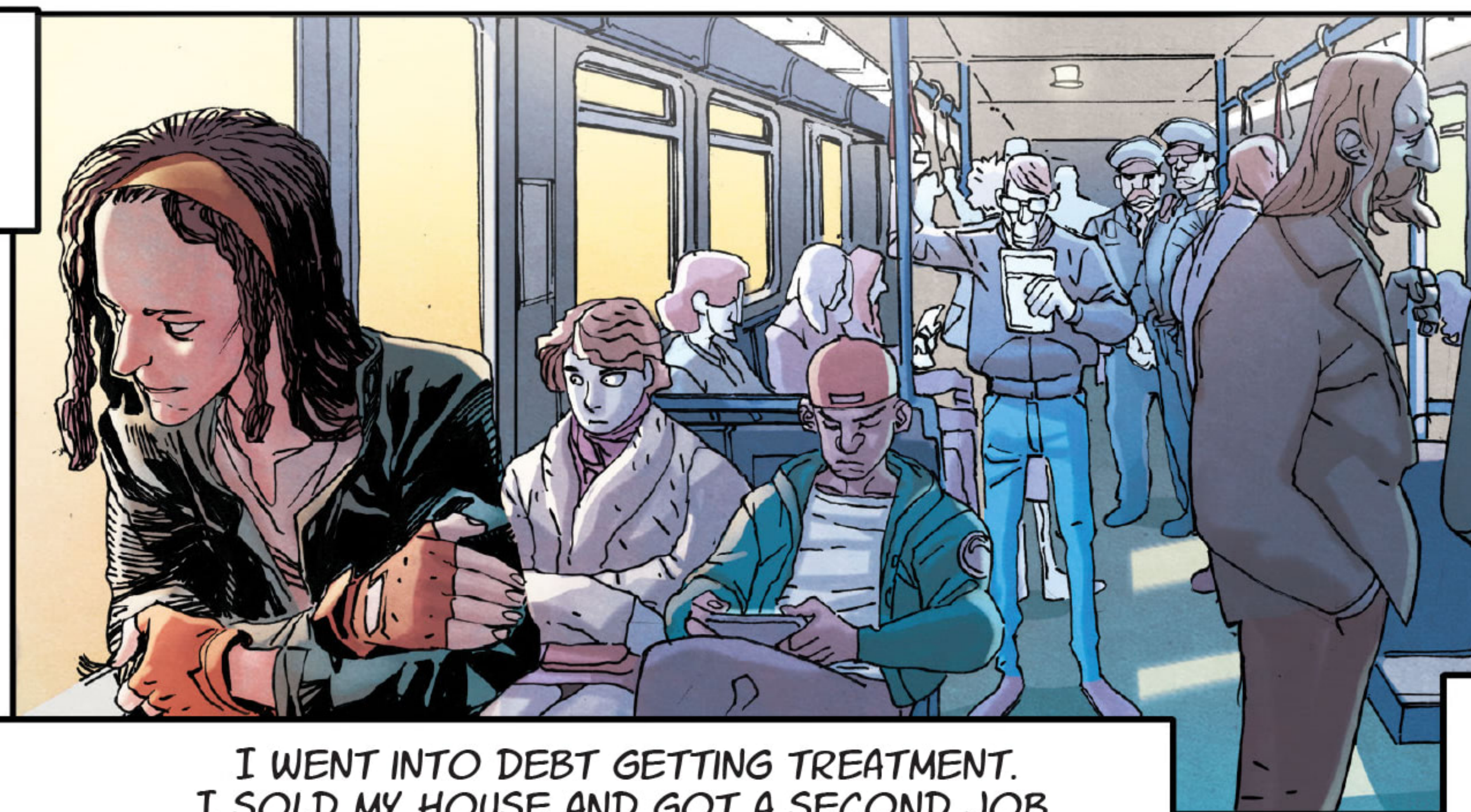
YEE
HAW! GO!



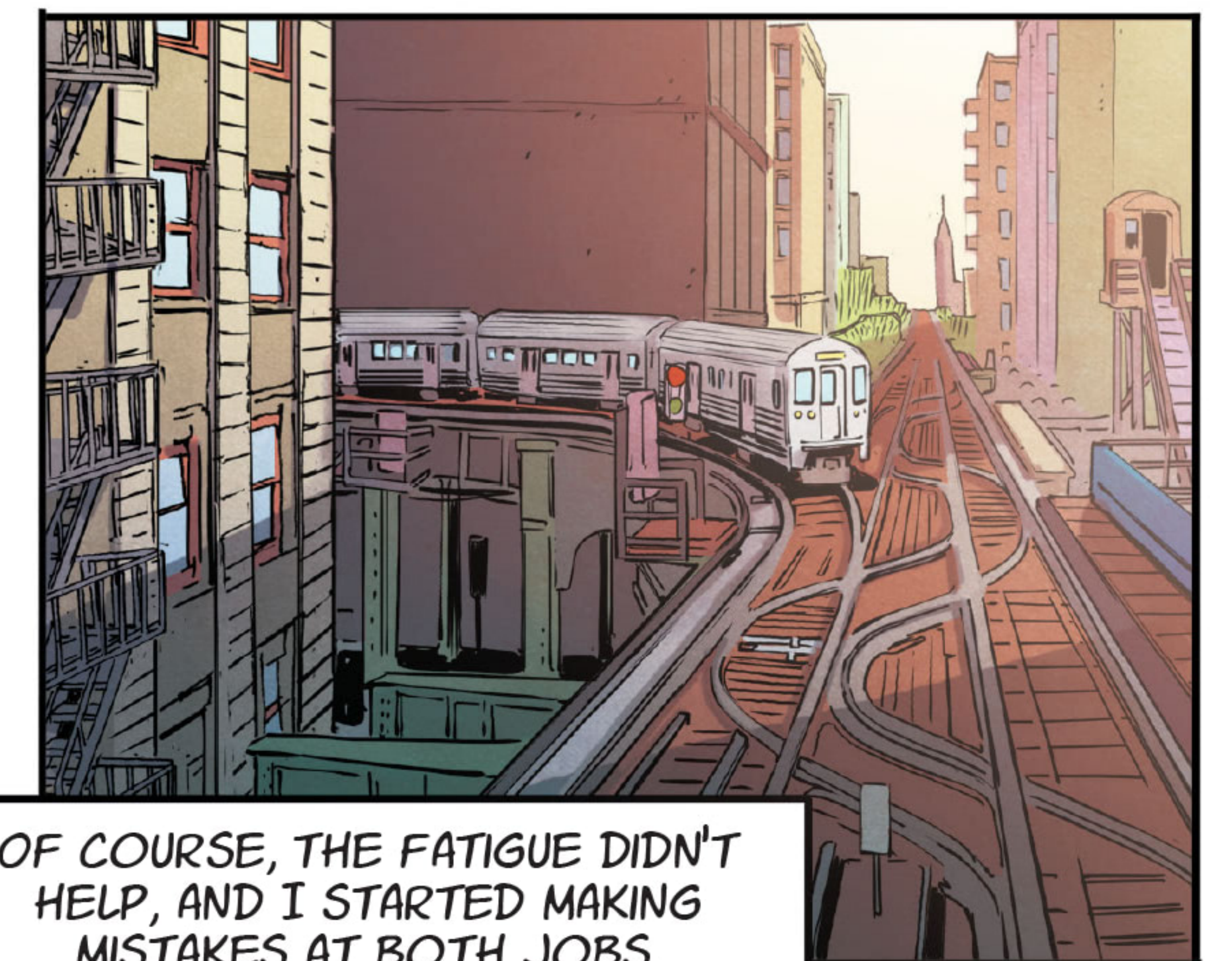
DON'T
MAKE THIS ANY
WORSE...



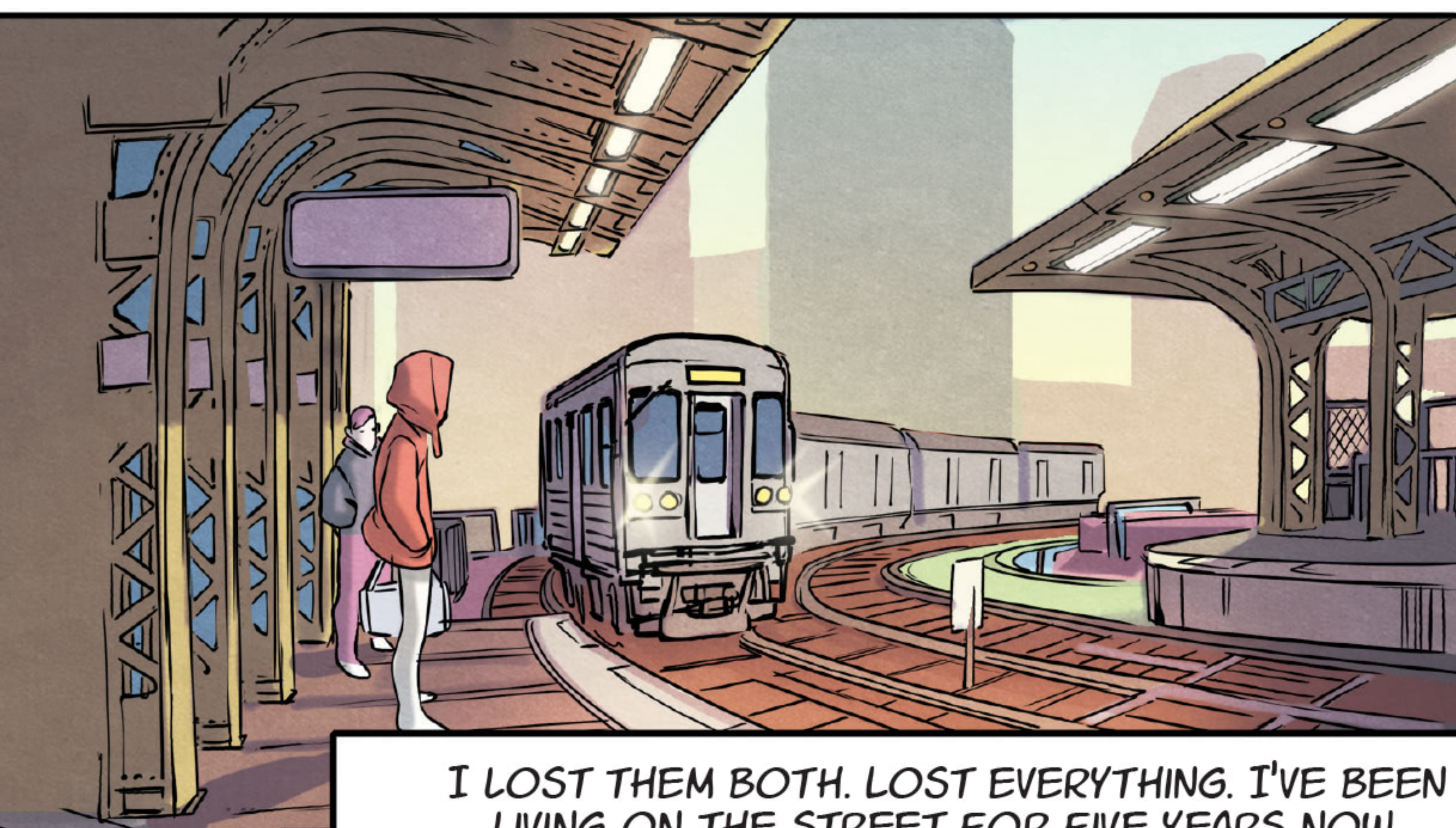
SEVEN YEARS AGO, I WAS
DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER. A
TUMOR UNDER MY LEFT KNEE.



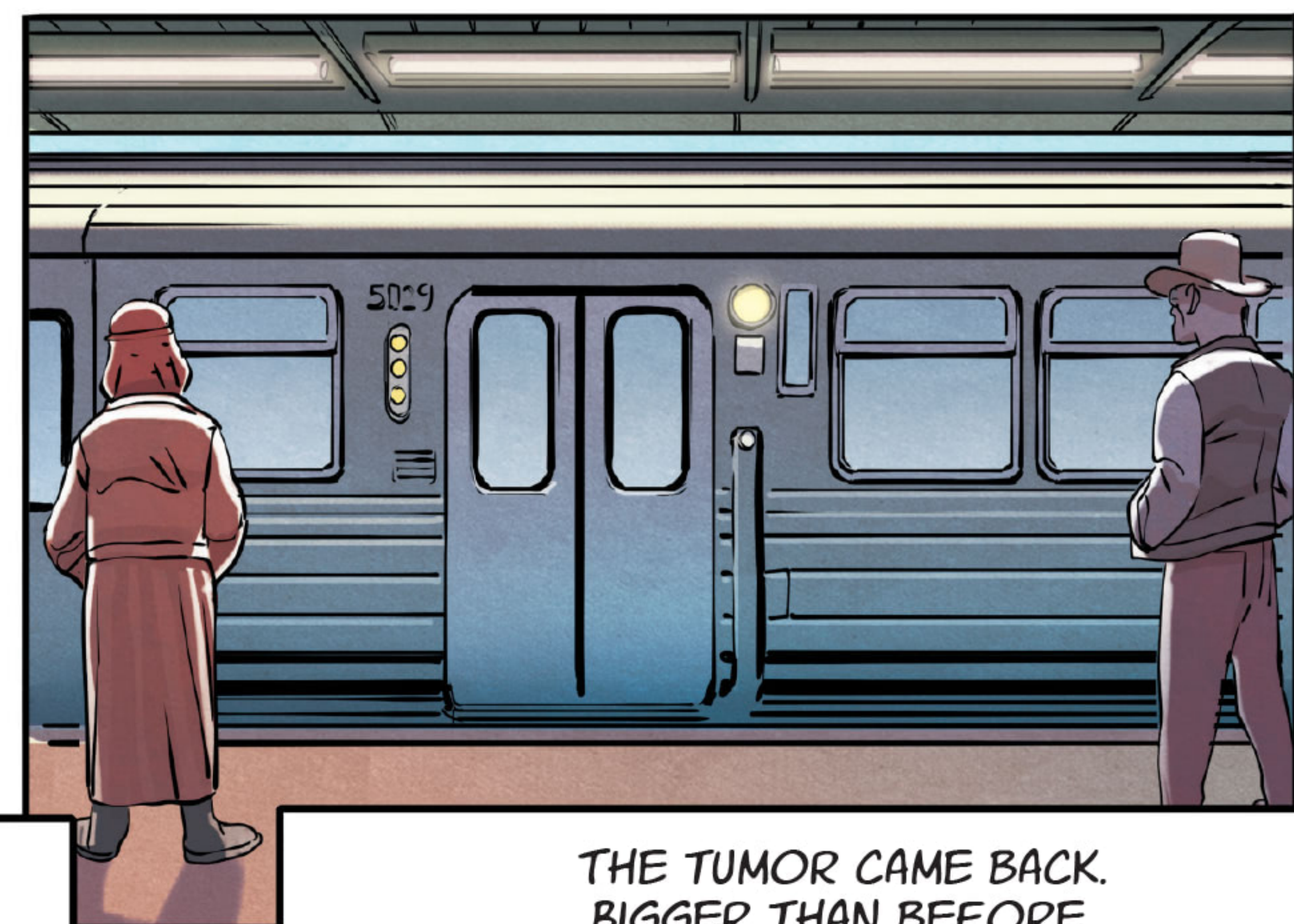
I WENT INTO DEBT GETTING TREATMENT.
I SOLD MY HOUSE AND GOT A SECOND JOB.



OF COURSE, THE FATIGUE DIDN'T
HELP, AND I STARTED MAKING
MISTAKES AT BOTH JOBS.



I LOST THEM BOTH. LOST EVERYTHING. I'VE BEEN
LIVING ON THE STREET FOR FIVE YEARS NOW.



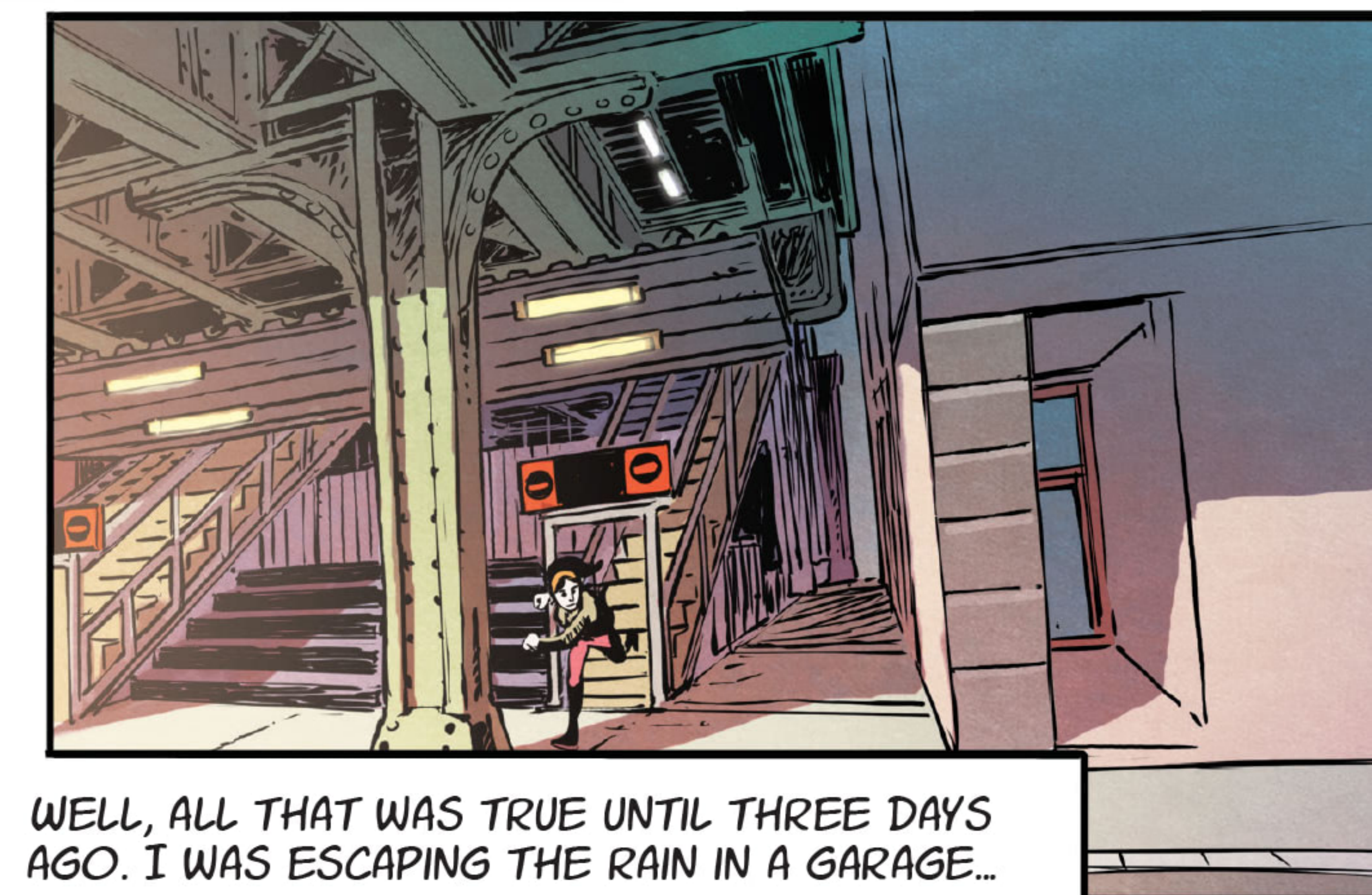
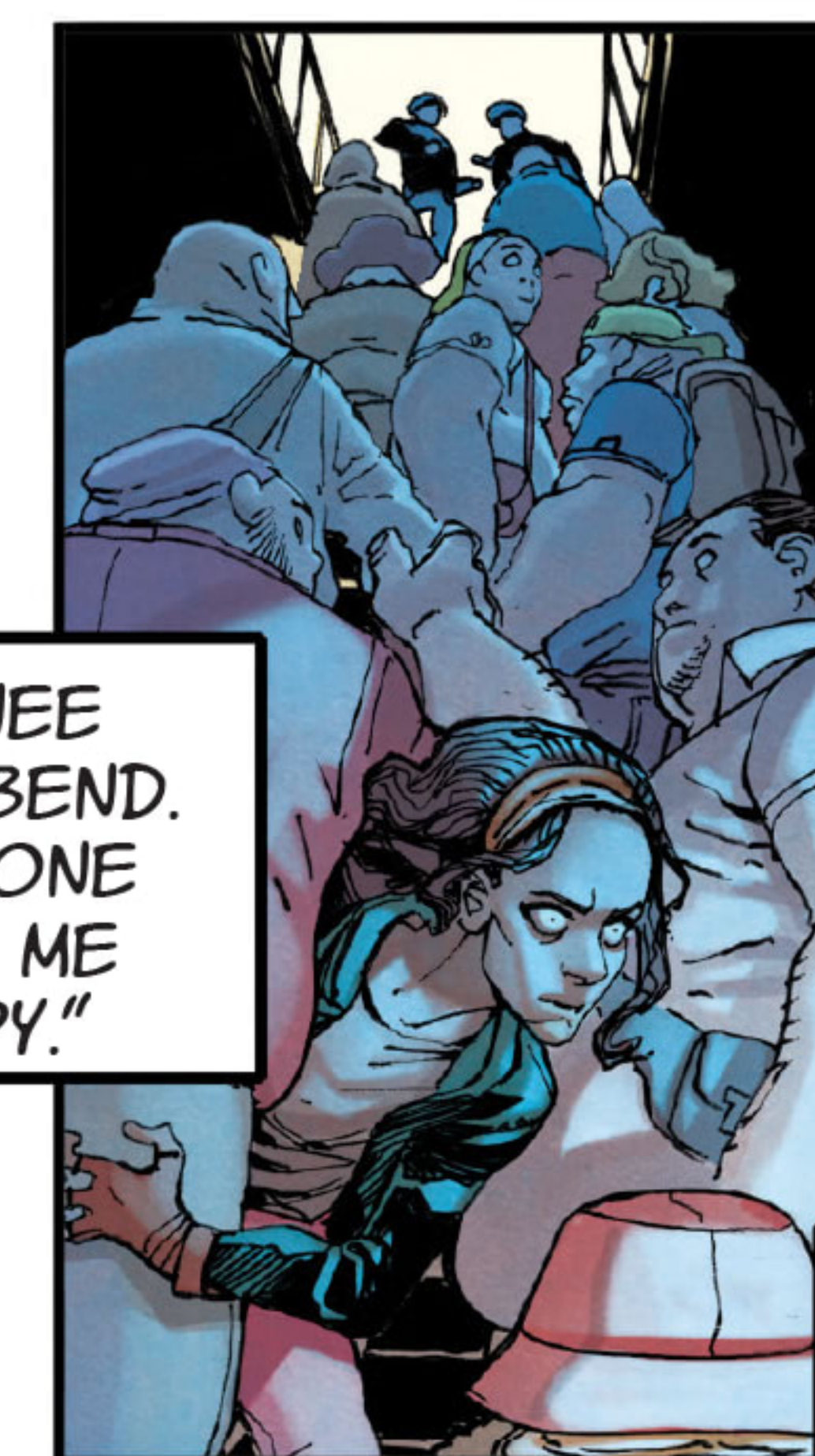
THE TUMOR CAME BACK.
BIGGER THAN BEFORE.



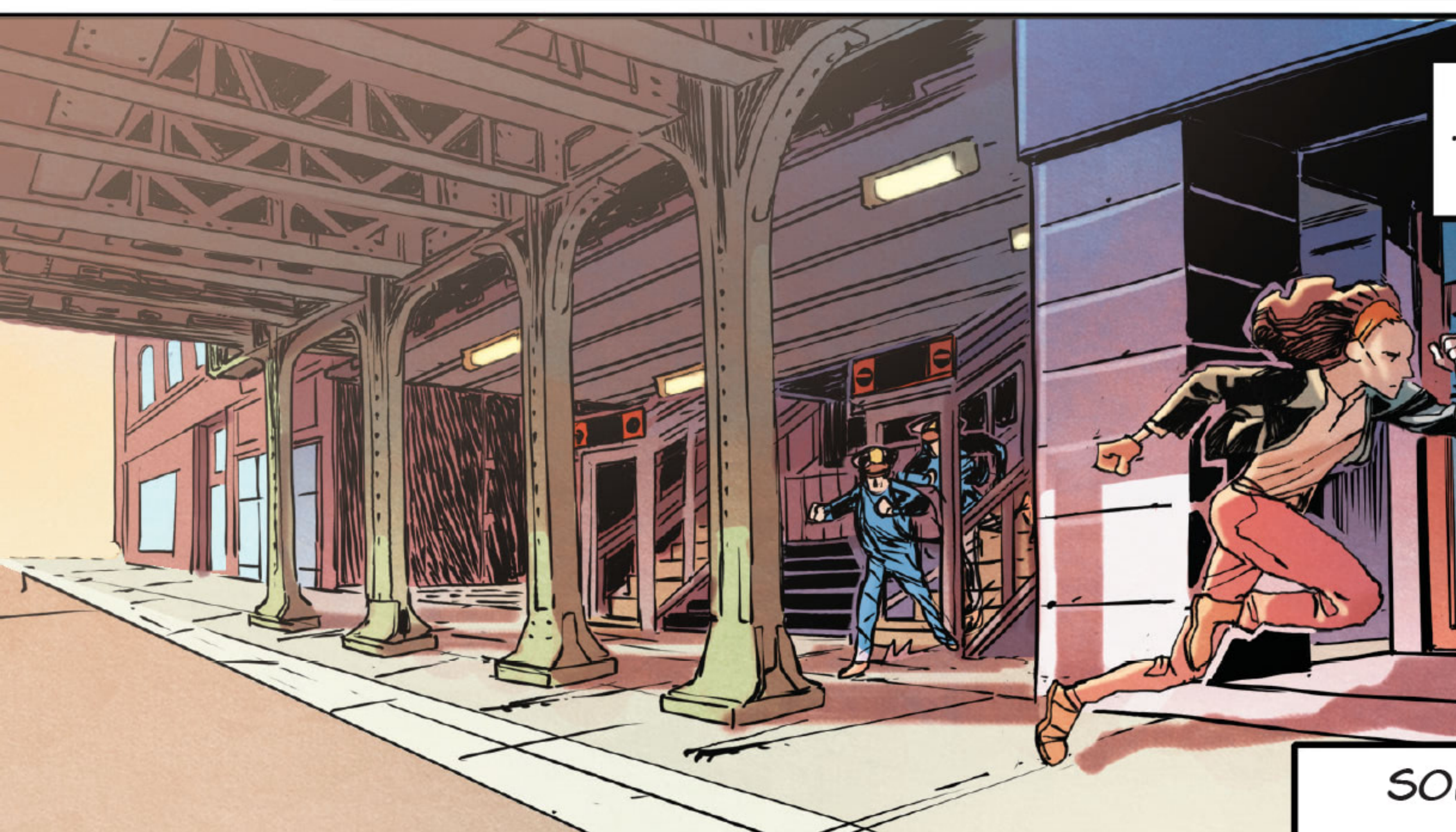
I CAN'T FEEL IT ANYMORE.
I'M USED TO THE PAIN.



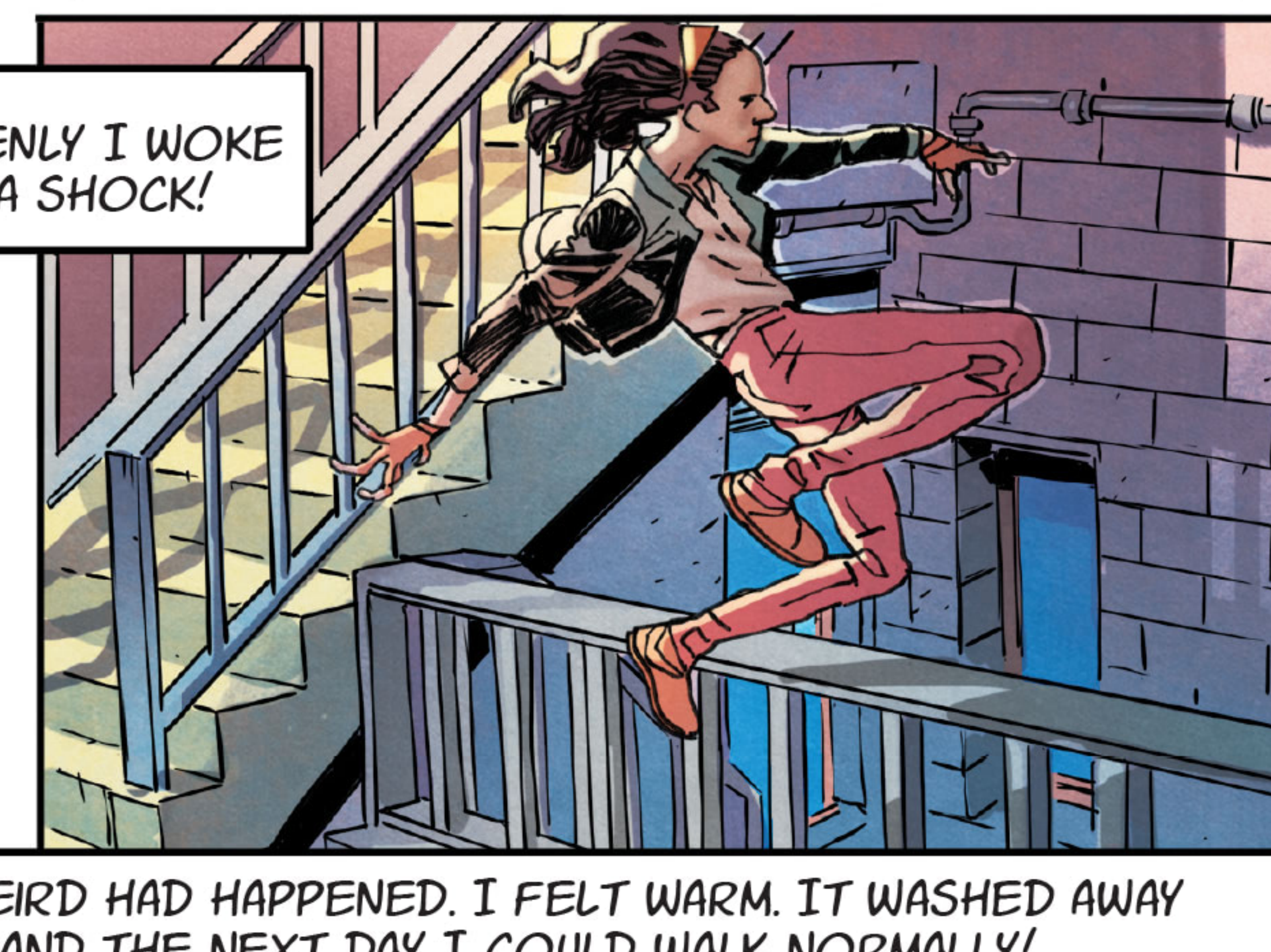
MY KNEE
WON'T BEND.
EVERYONE
CALLS ME
"GIMPY."



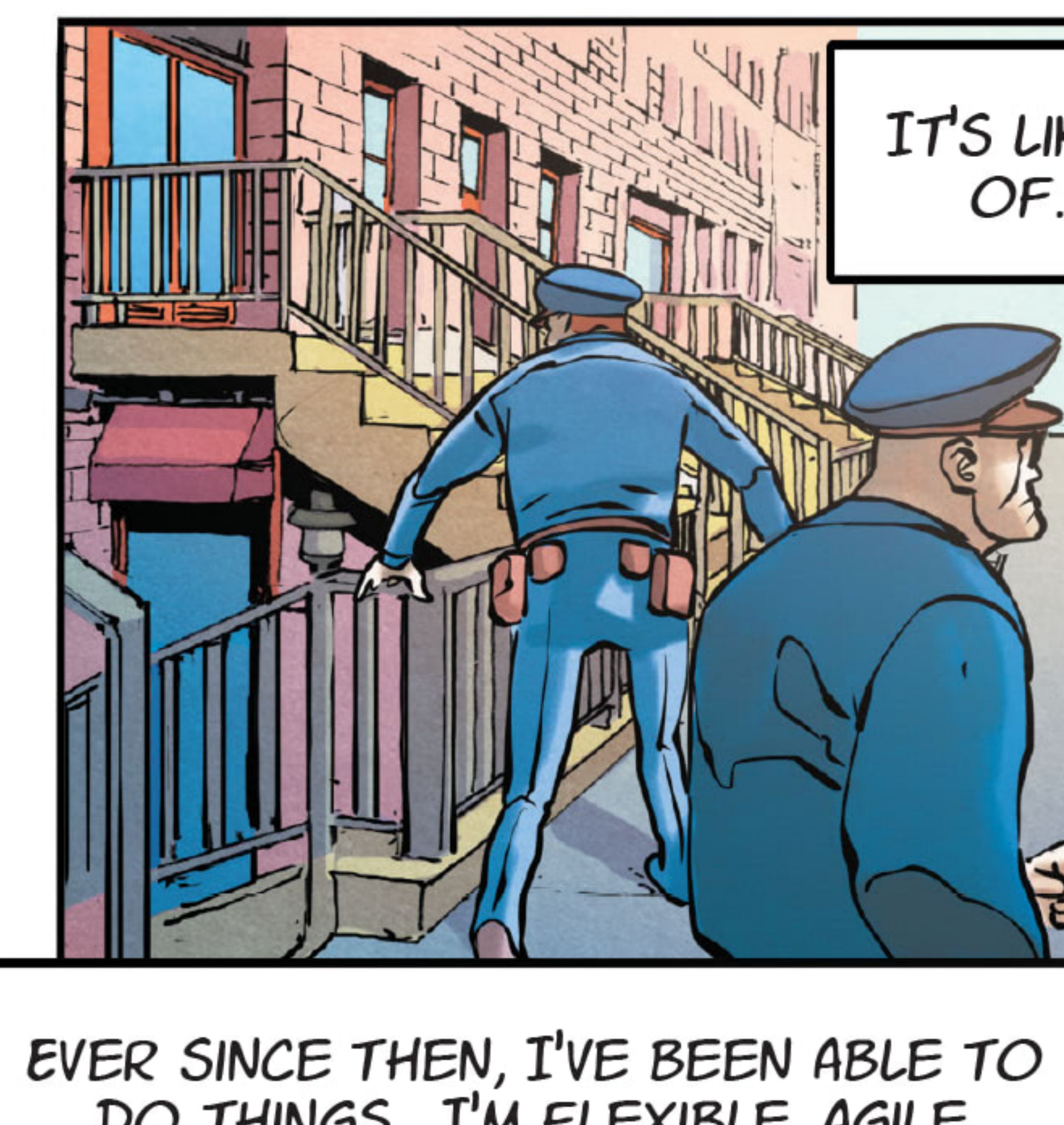
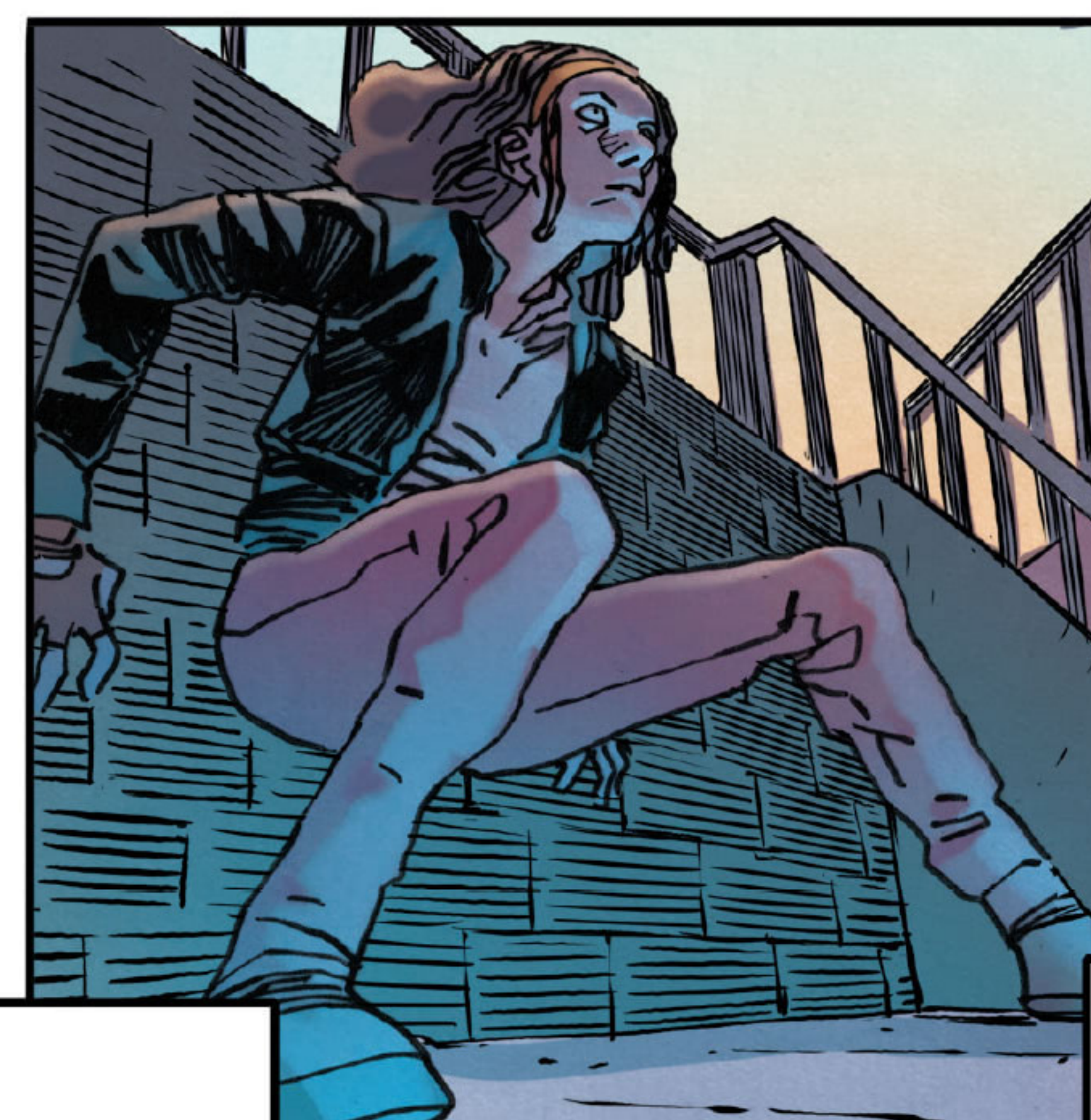
WELL, ALL THAT WAS TRUE UNTIL THREE DAYS
AGO. I WAS ESCAPING THE RAIN IN A GARAGE...



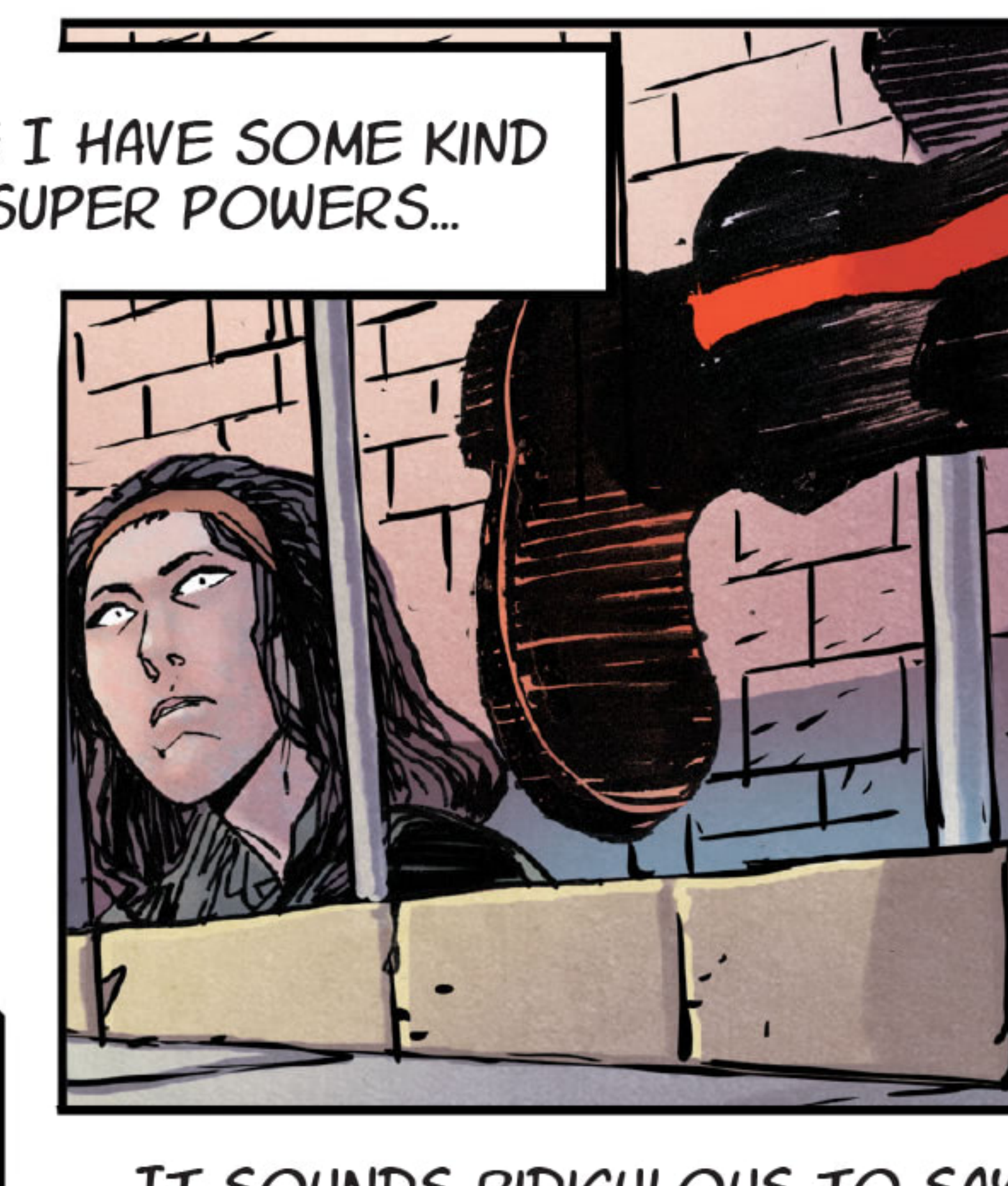
...AND SUDDENLY I WOKE
UP WITH A SHOCK!



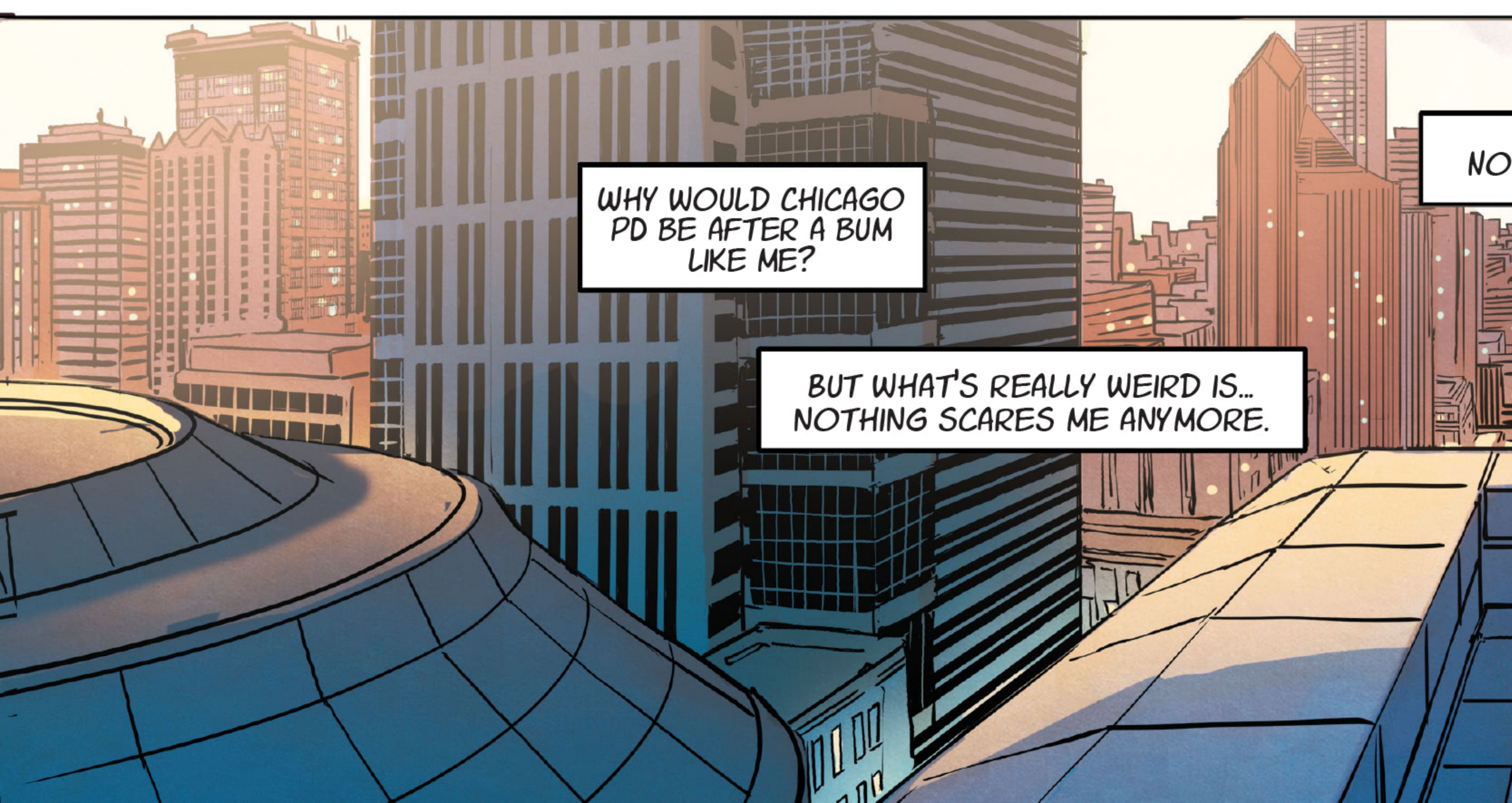
SOMETHING WEIRD HAD HAPPENED. I FELT WARM. IT WASHED AWAY
MY PAIN. AND THE NEXT DAY I COULD WALK NORMALLY!



IT'S LIKE I HAVE SOME KIND
OF... SUPER POWERS...



IT SOUNDS RIDICULOUS TO SAY THAT I CAN TURN INVISIBLE. BUT SO
DOES THE FACT THAT I'M ALWAYS BEING FOLLOWED BY COPS...



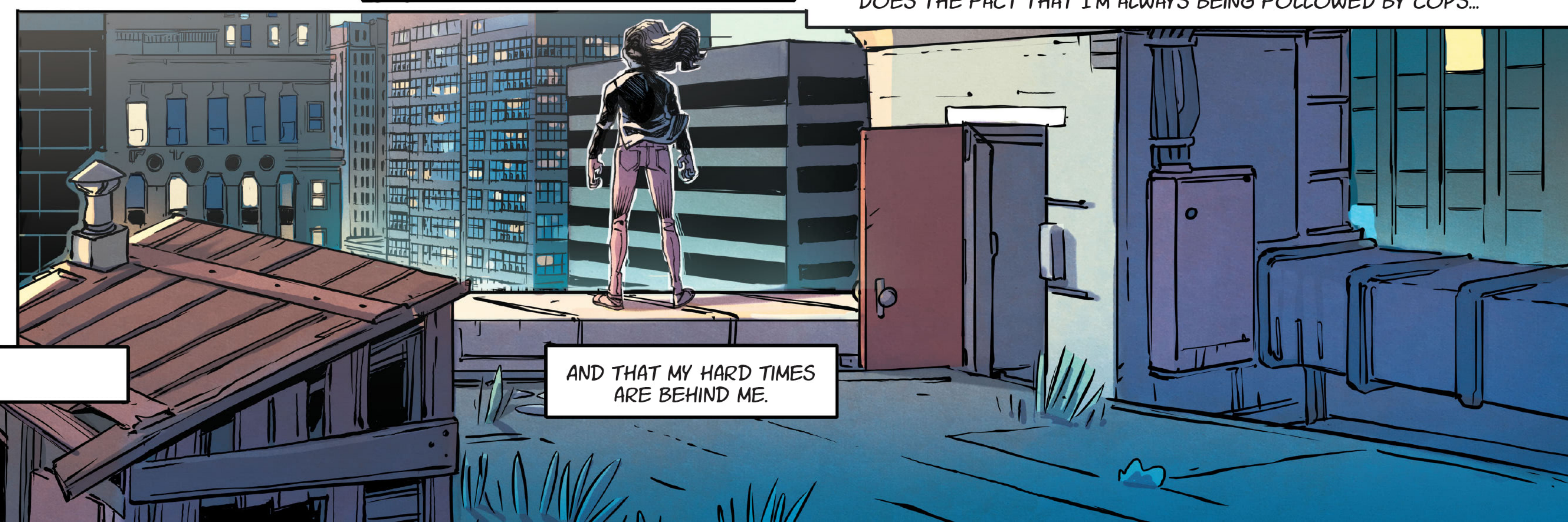
WHY WOULD CHICAGO
PD BE AFTER A BUM
LIKE ME?

BUT WHAT'S REALLY WEIRD IS...
NOTHING SCARES ME ANYMORE.

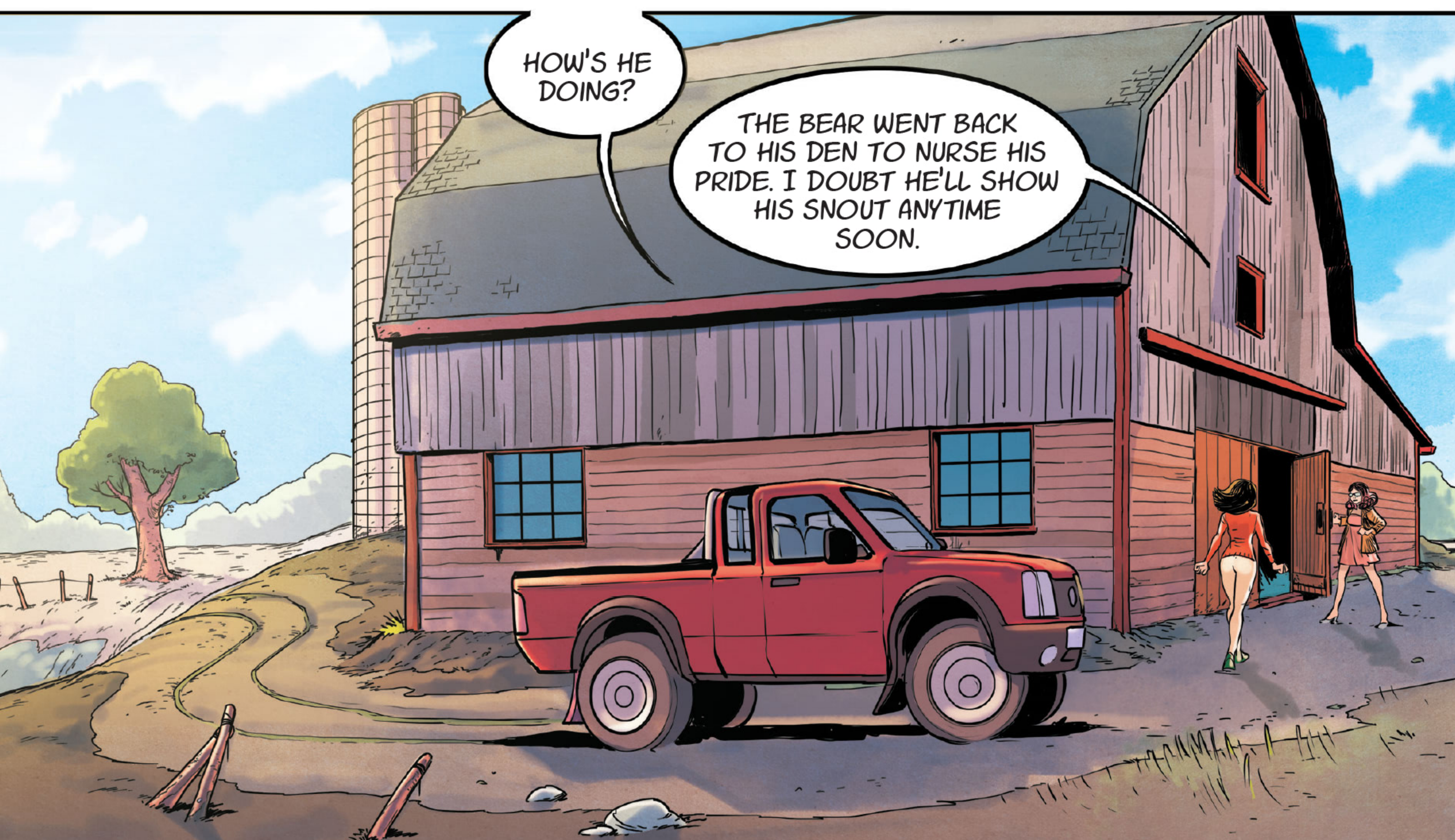
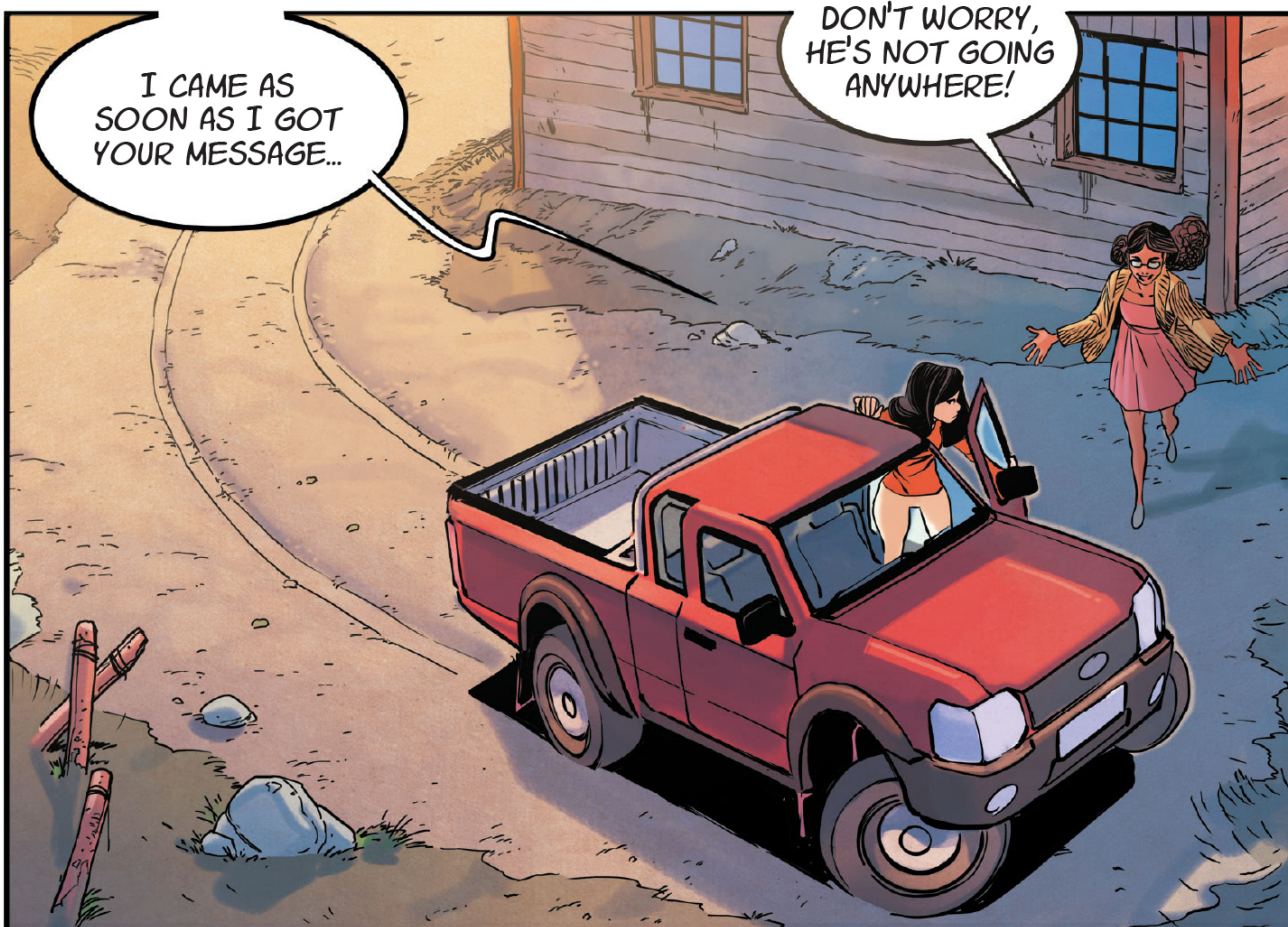
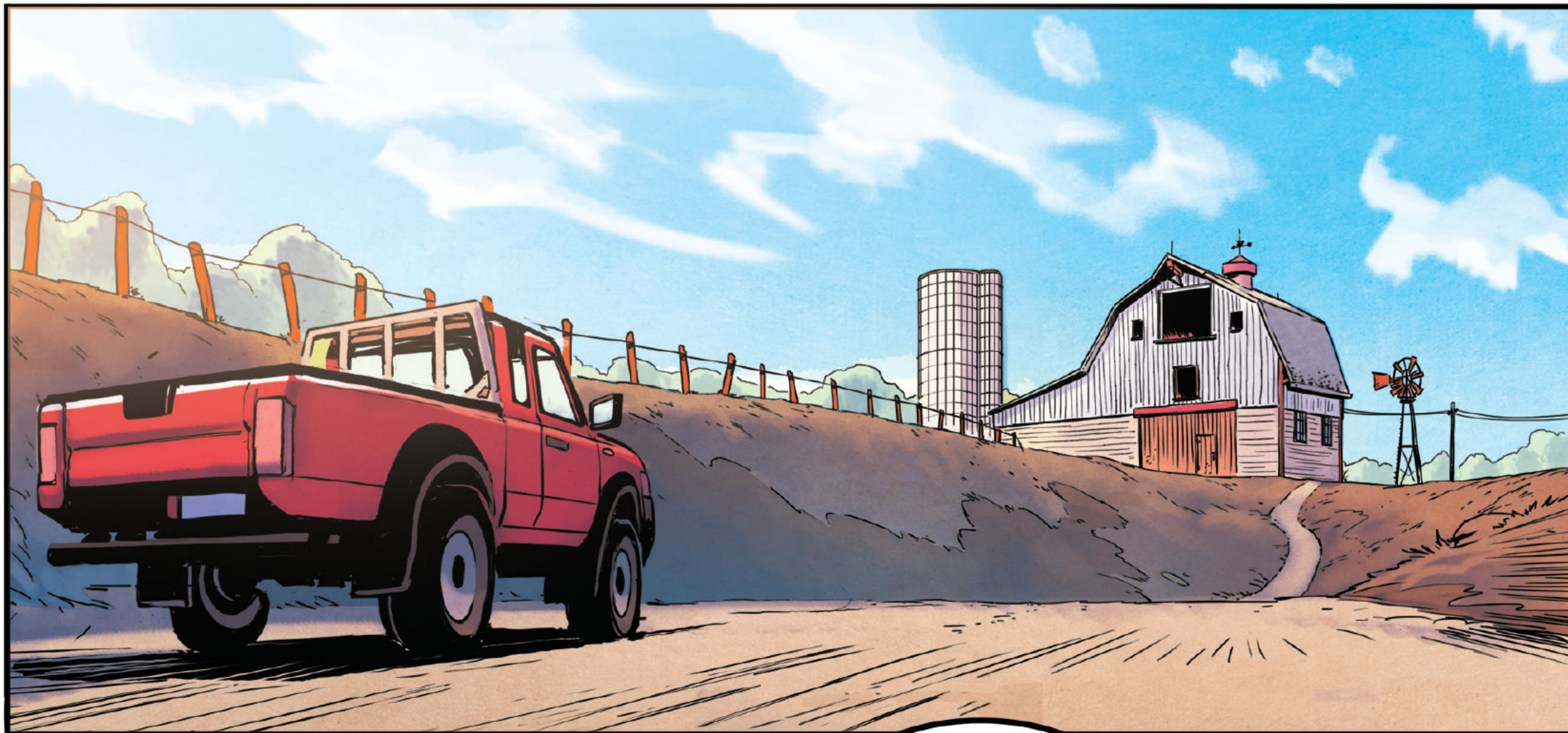


NOTHING.

IT'S LIKE I KNOW THAT I'M SAFE.

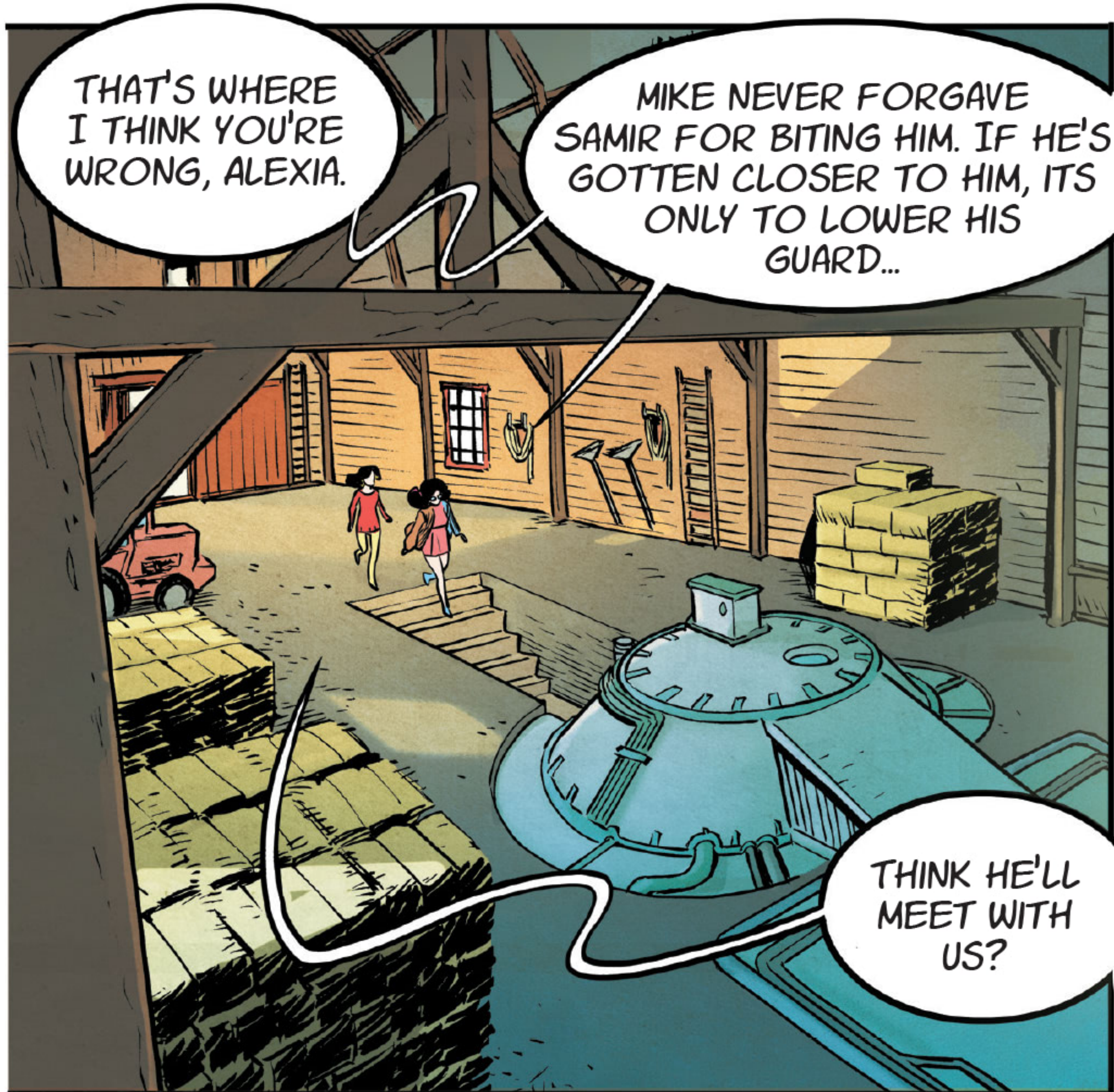


AND THAT MY HARD TIMES
ARE BEHIND ME.



IF ONLY HE'D REALIZE WHO HE'S DEALING WITH...

...I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW HE CAN SIDE WITH SAMIR AFTER WHAT HE DID TO HIM...



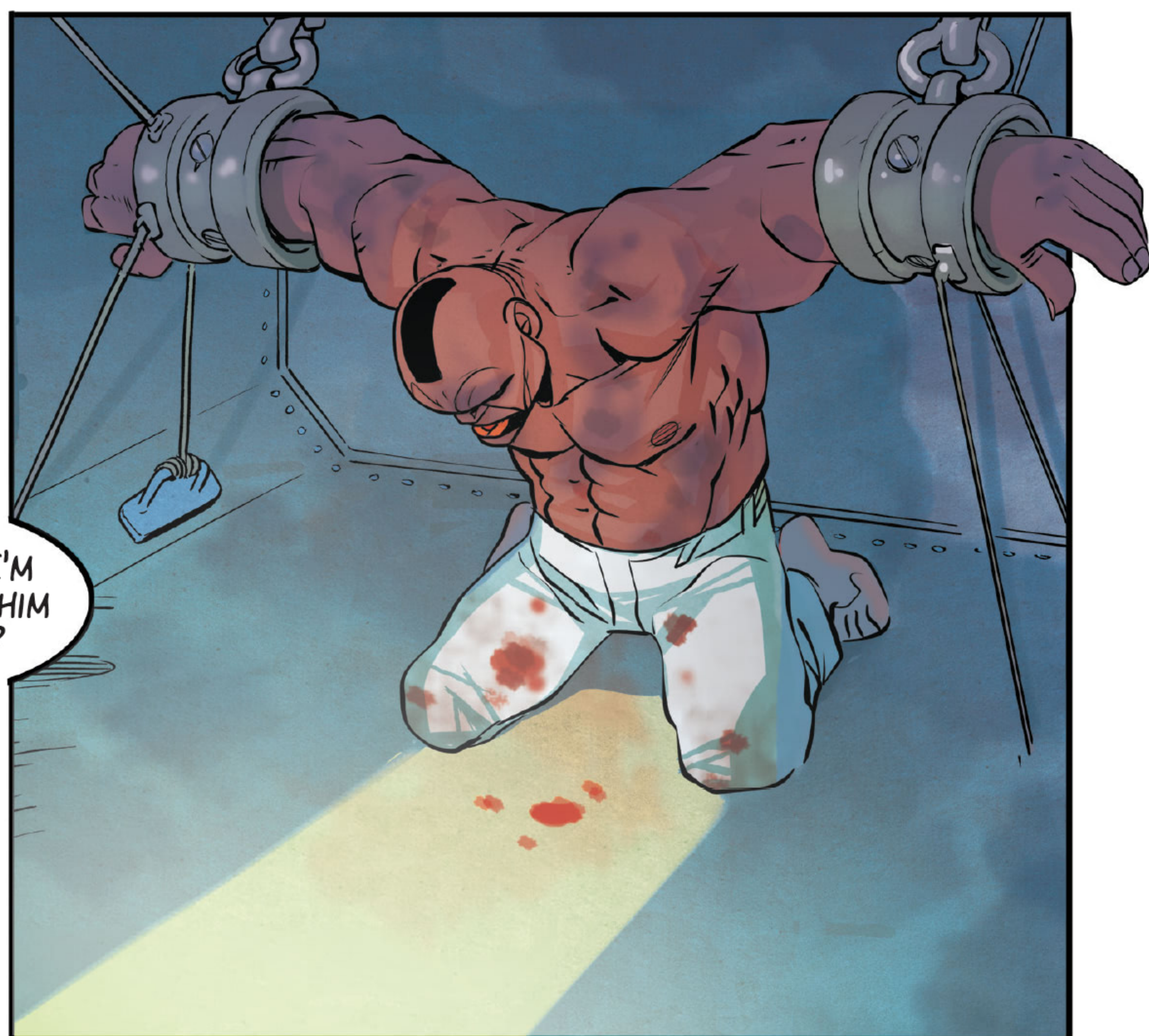
I'VE STUDIED THE FORGOTTEN CLAN CLOSELY. THE STAG, THE CAT, THE ELEPHANT, THE OWL, AND THE INSECT MAKE A SOLID TEAM. THE CAMEL AND THE BEAR ONLY JOINED THEM HALF-HEARTEDLY.



THE PANDA IS A PACIFIST. THE PELICAN IS A LONER.



BUT SAMIR HAS SHAAZ IN HIS POCKET...



HEY, JAMAL,
WHERE'S YOUR
BODYGUARD?

LEAVE ME
ALONE. I DIDN'T
DO NOTHIN'...

SERIOUSLY? ENRICO
IS STILL IN BED WITH A
HEADACHE... YOU GOTTA
PAY FOR THAT!

EITHER YOU
FIGHT BACK OR YOU
TAKE A BEATING IN
SILENCE...

PLEASE...

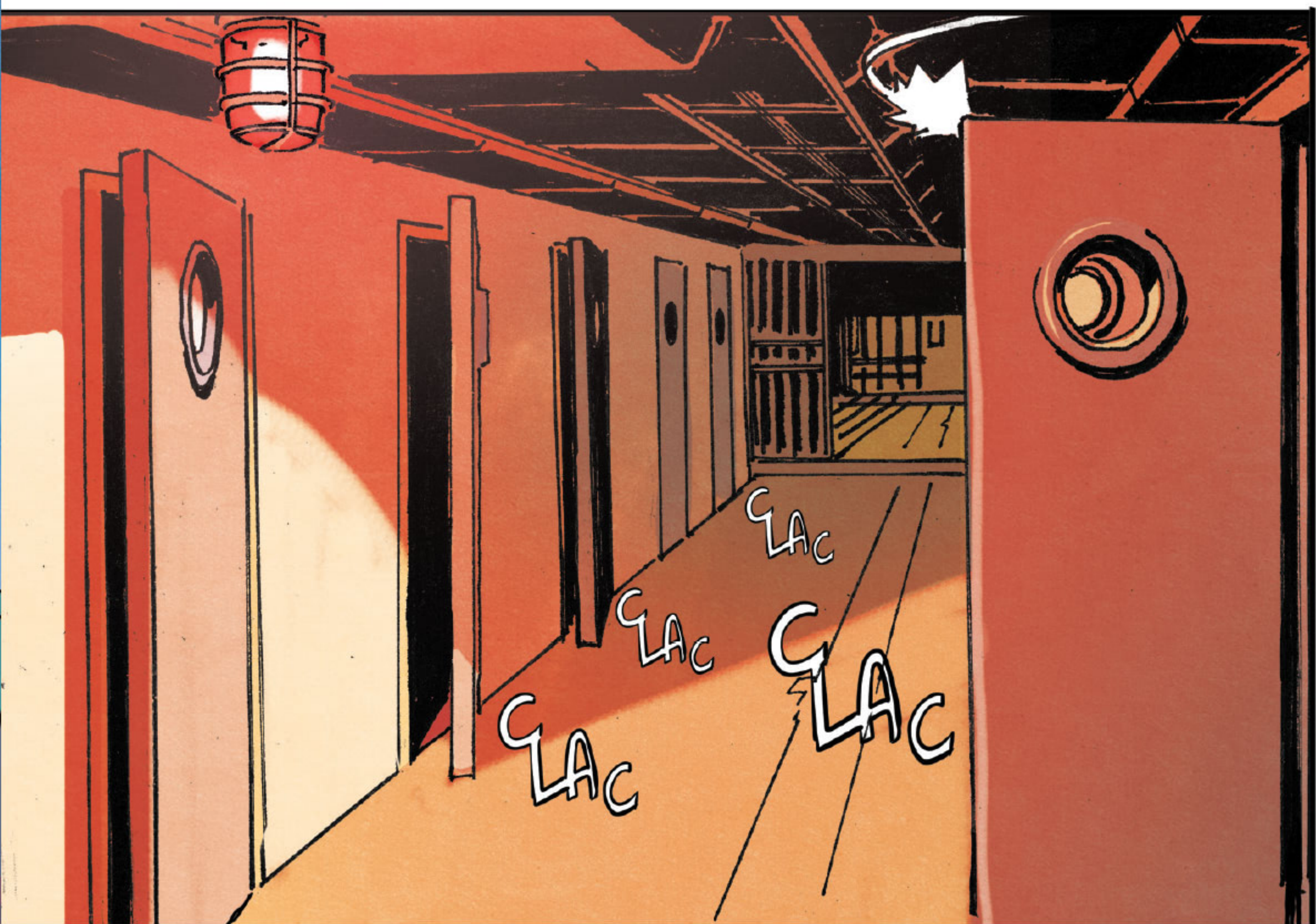
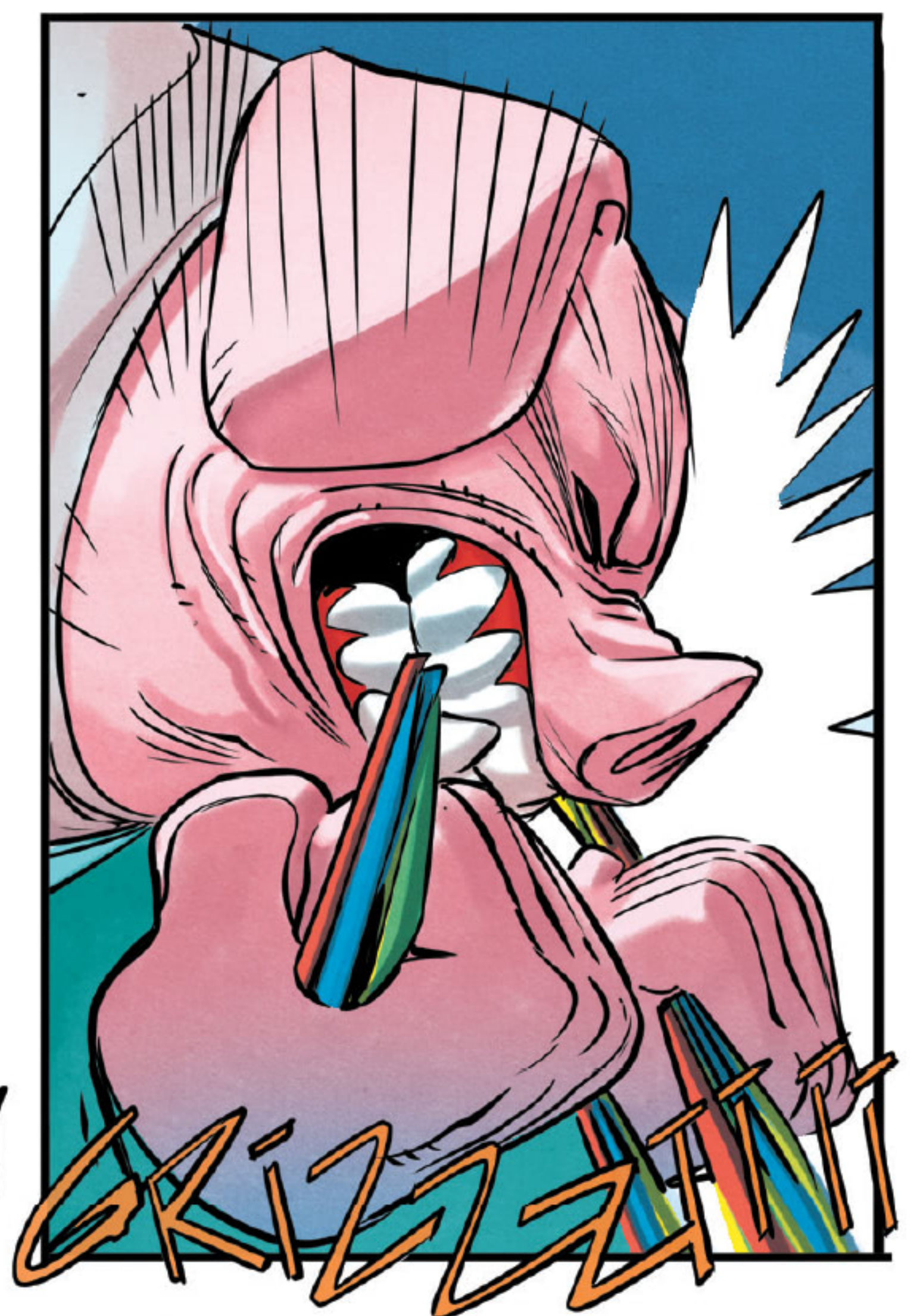
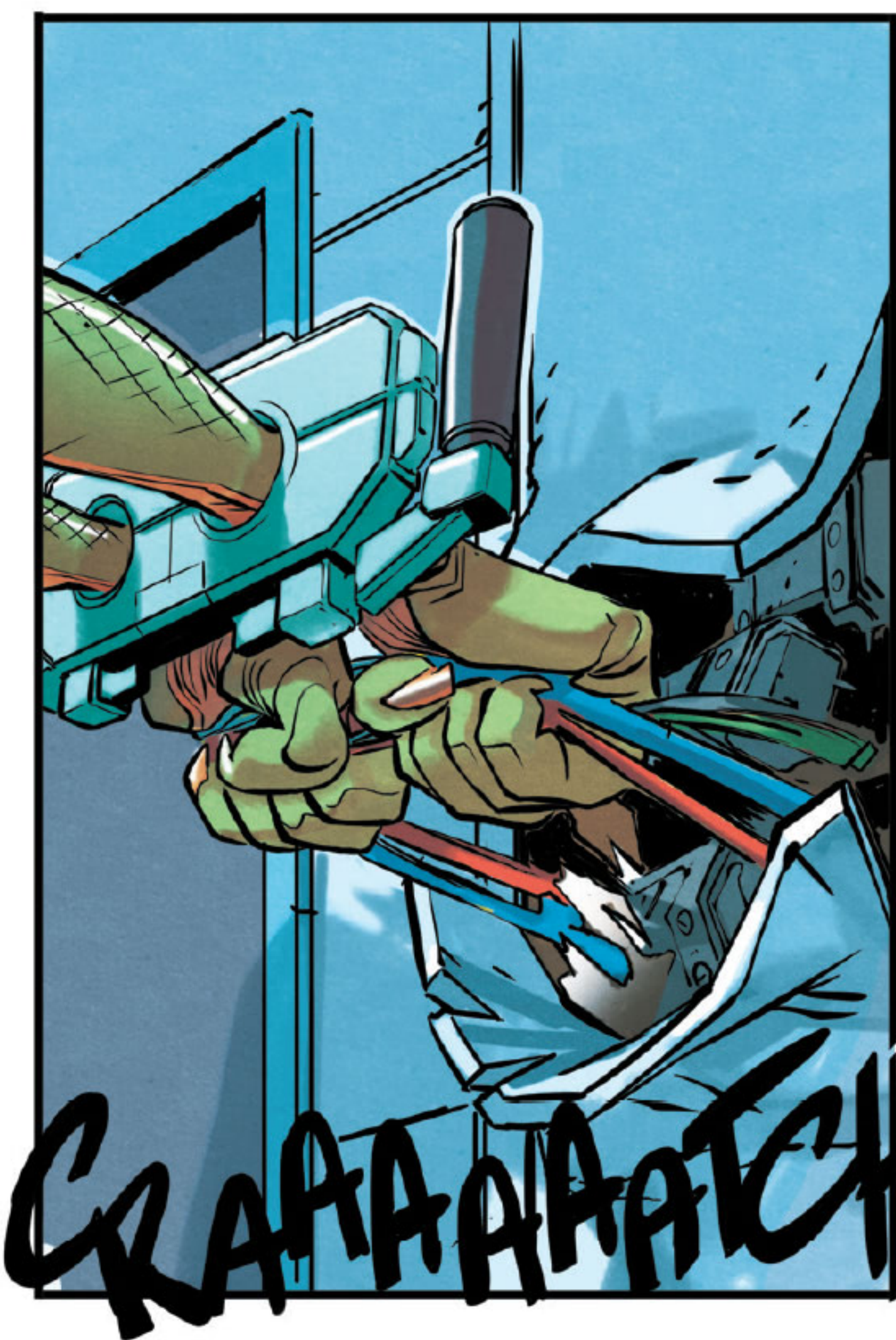
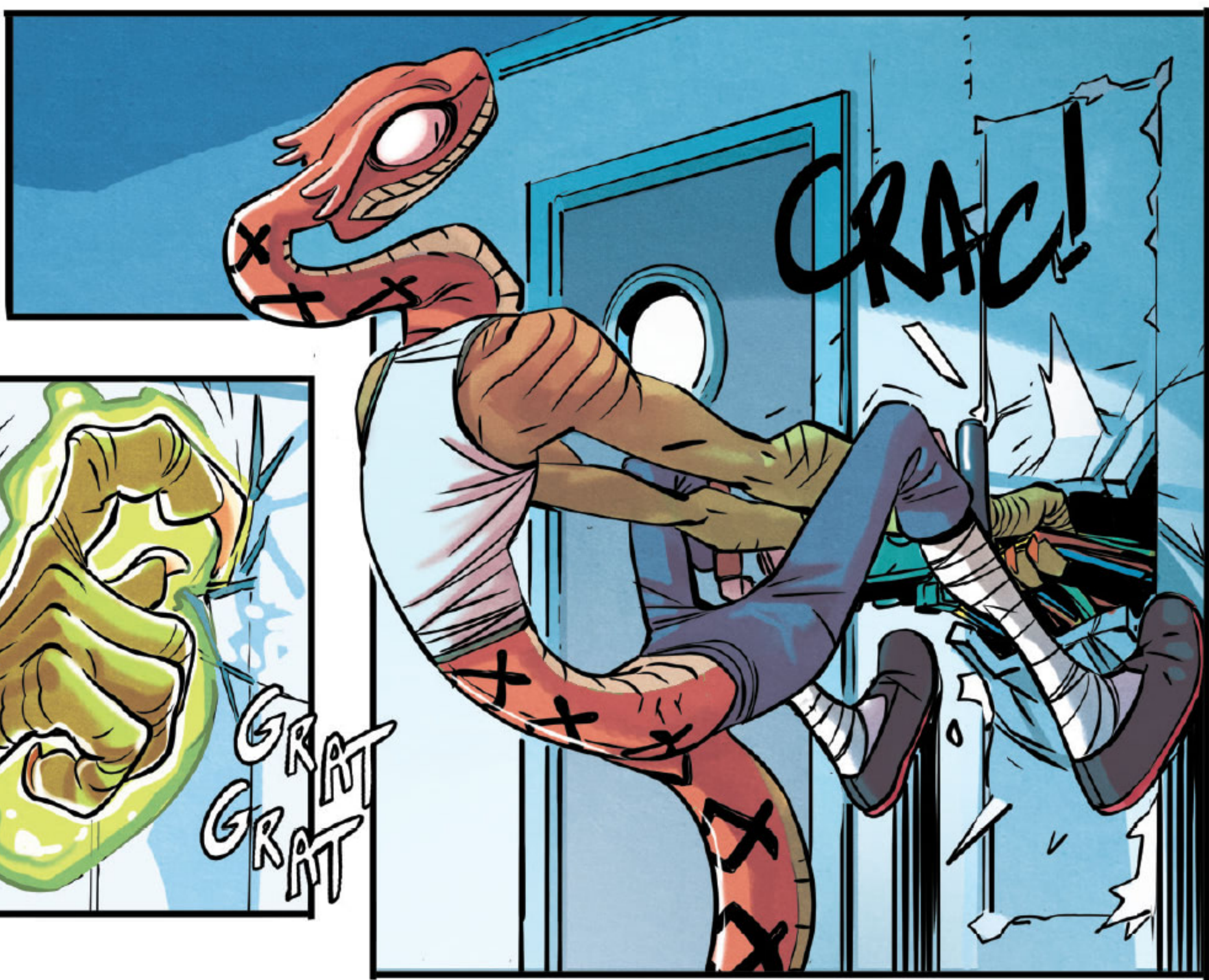
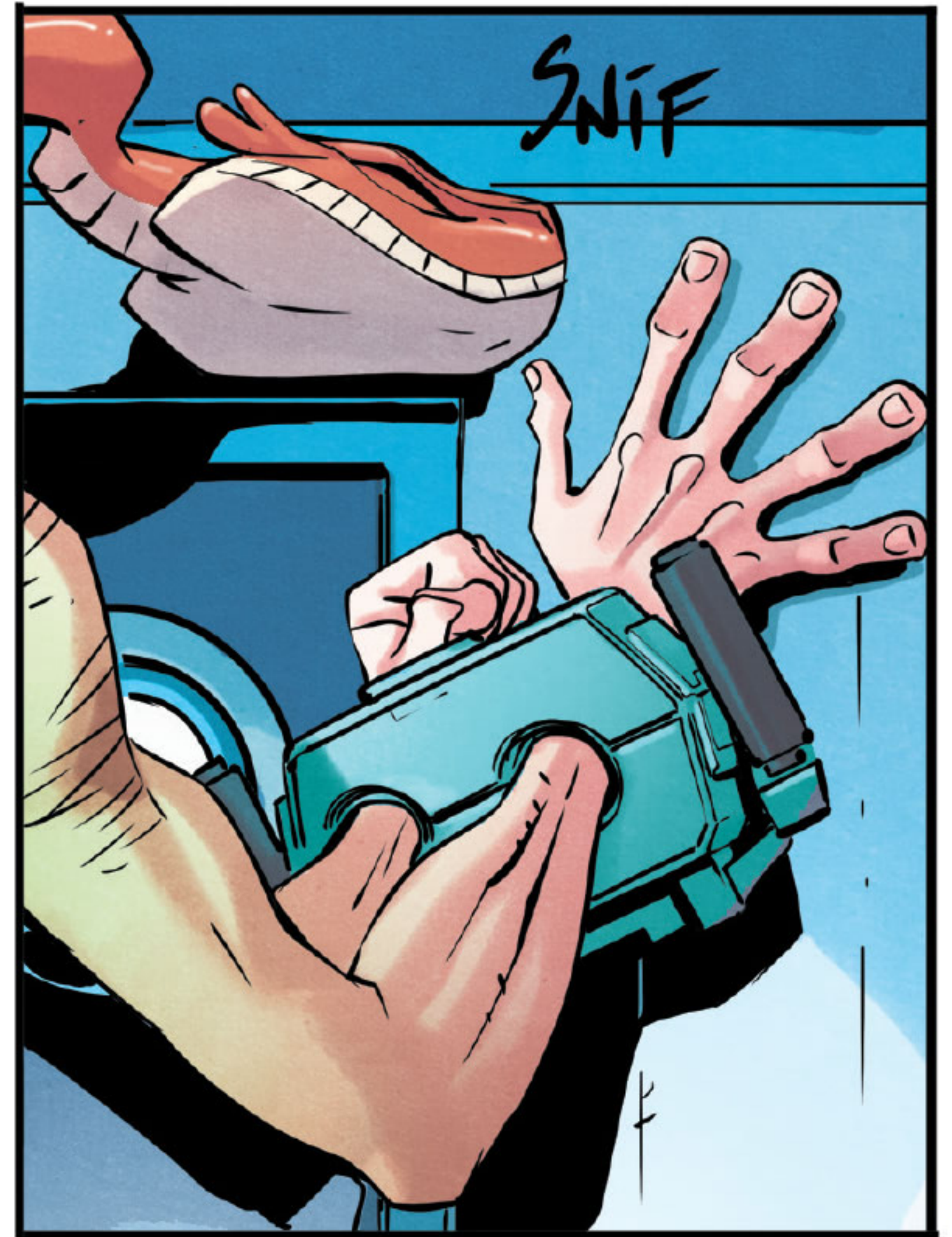
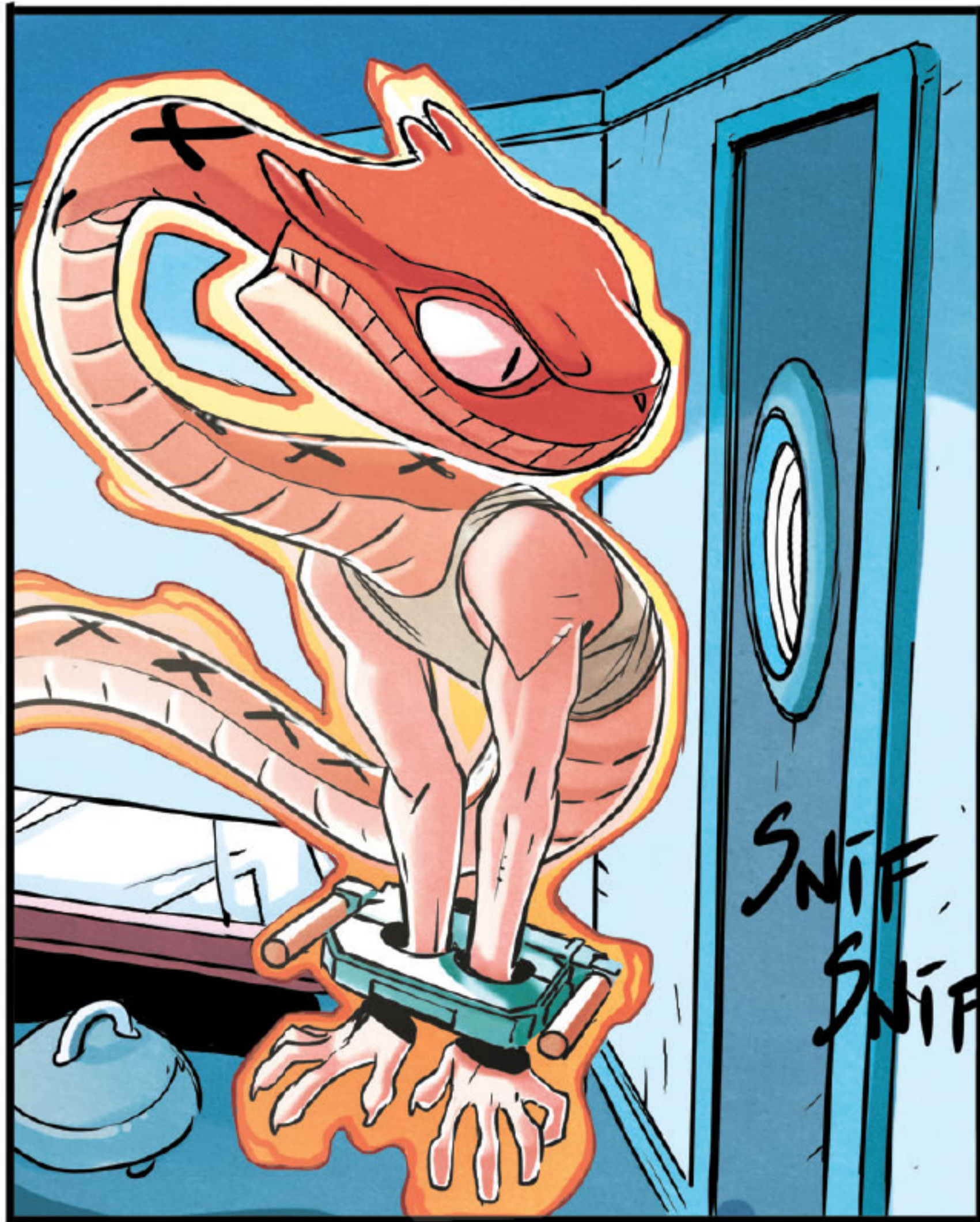
OKAY, I GUESS
YOU CAN CRY A LITTLE...

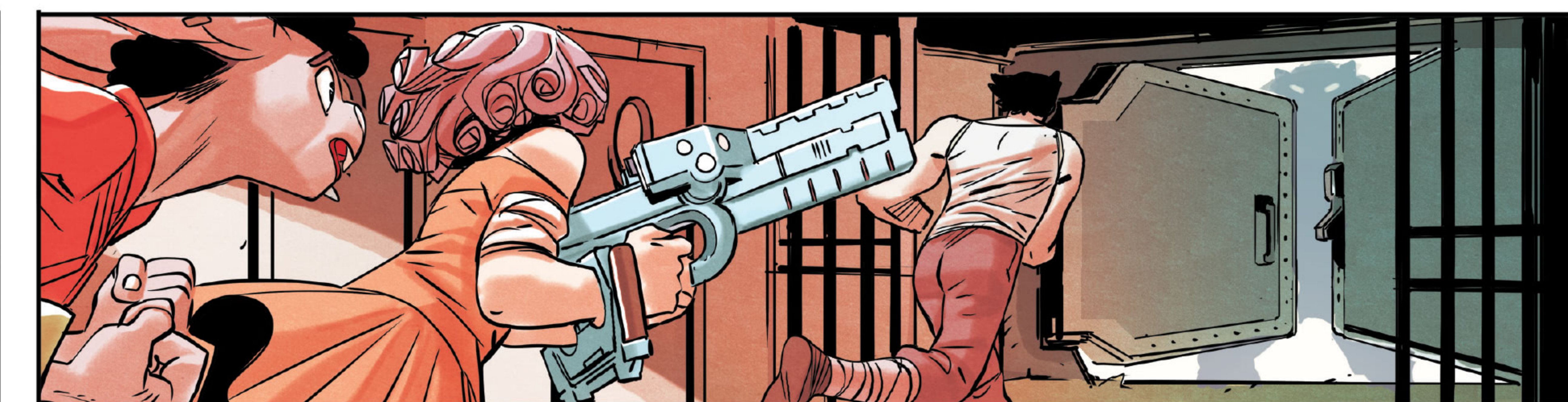
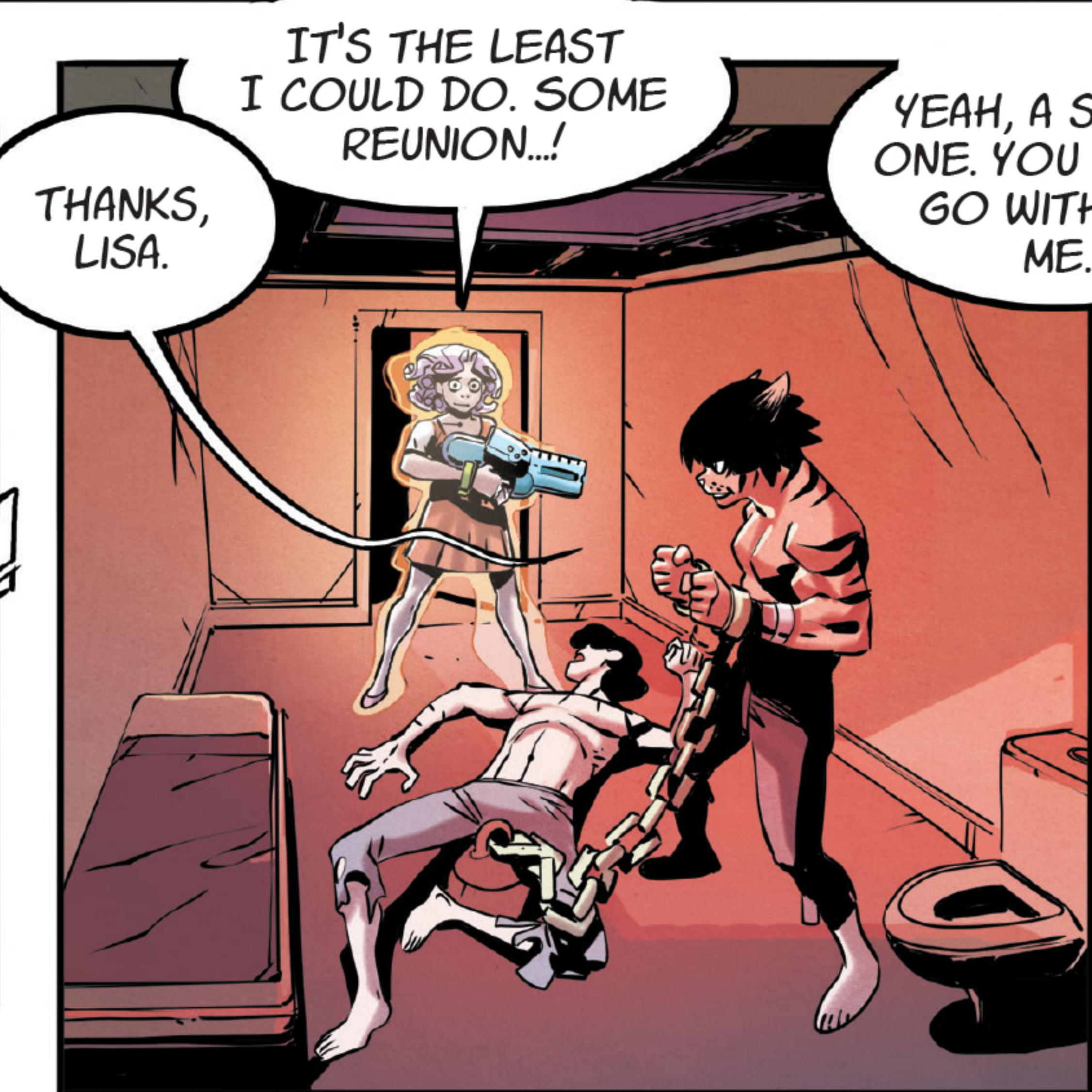
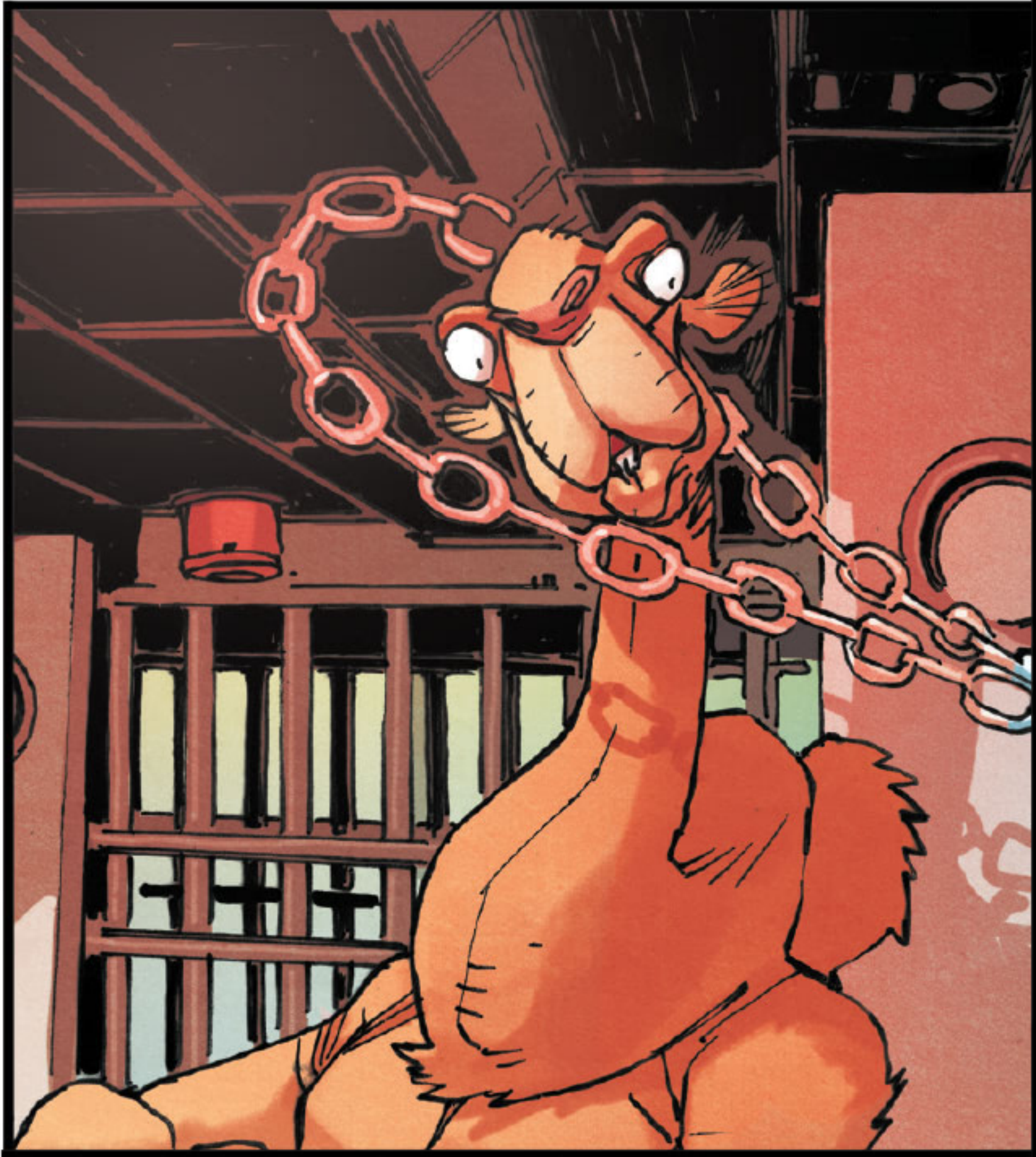
WHAT
THE...?!

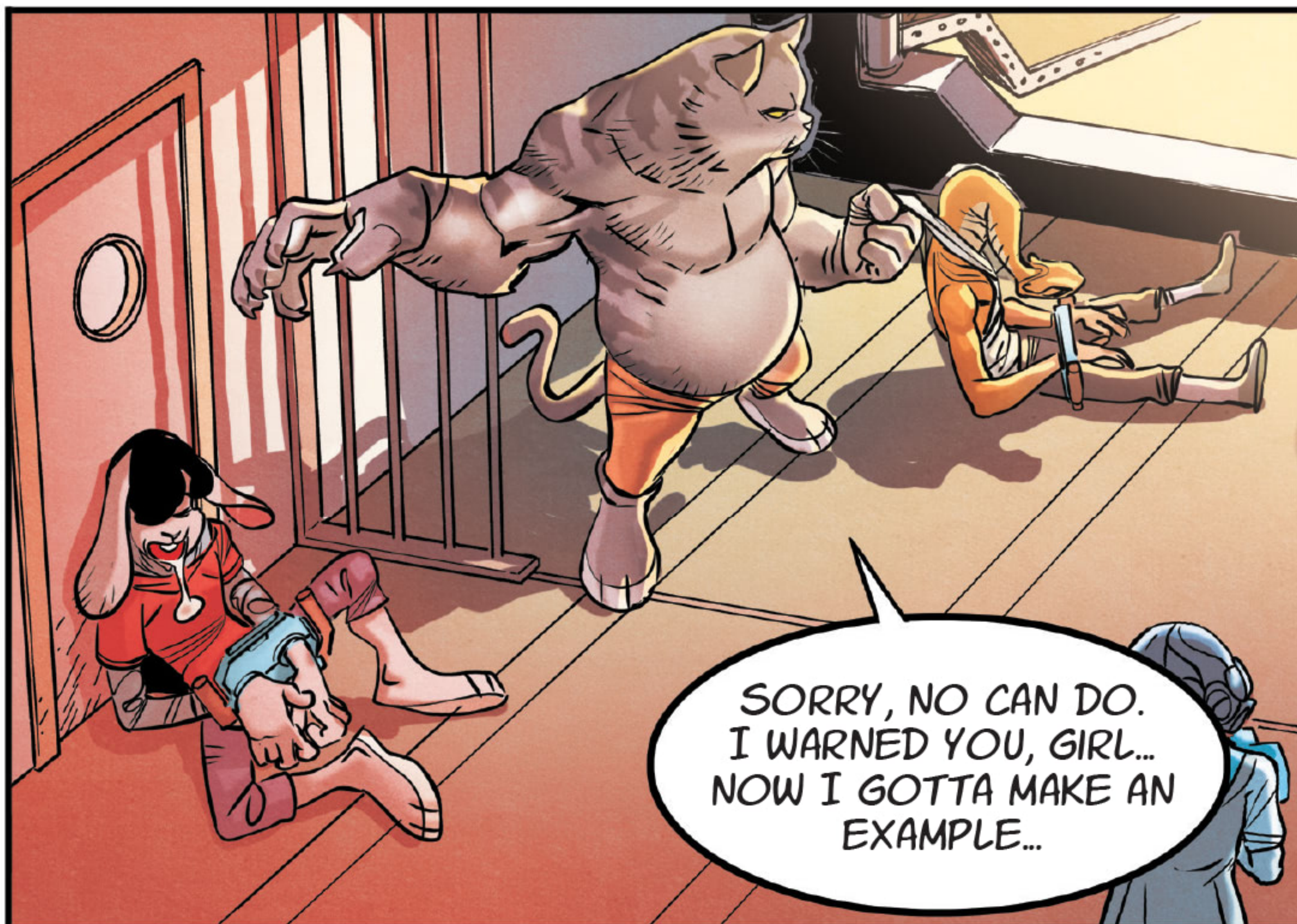
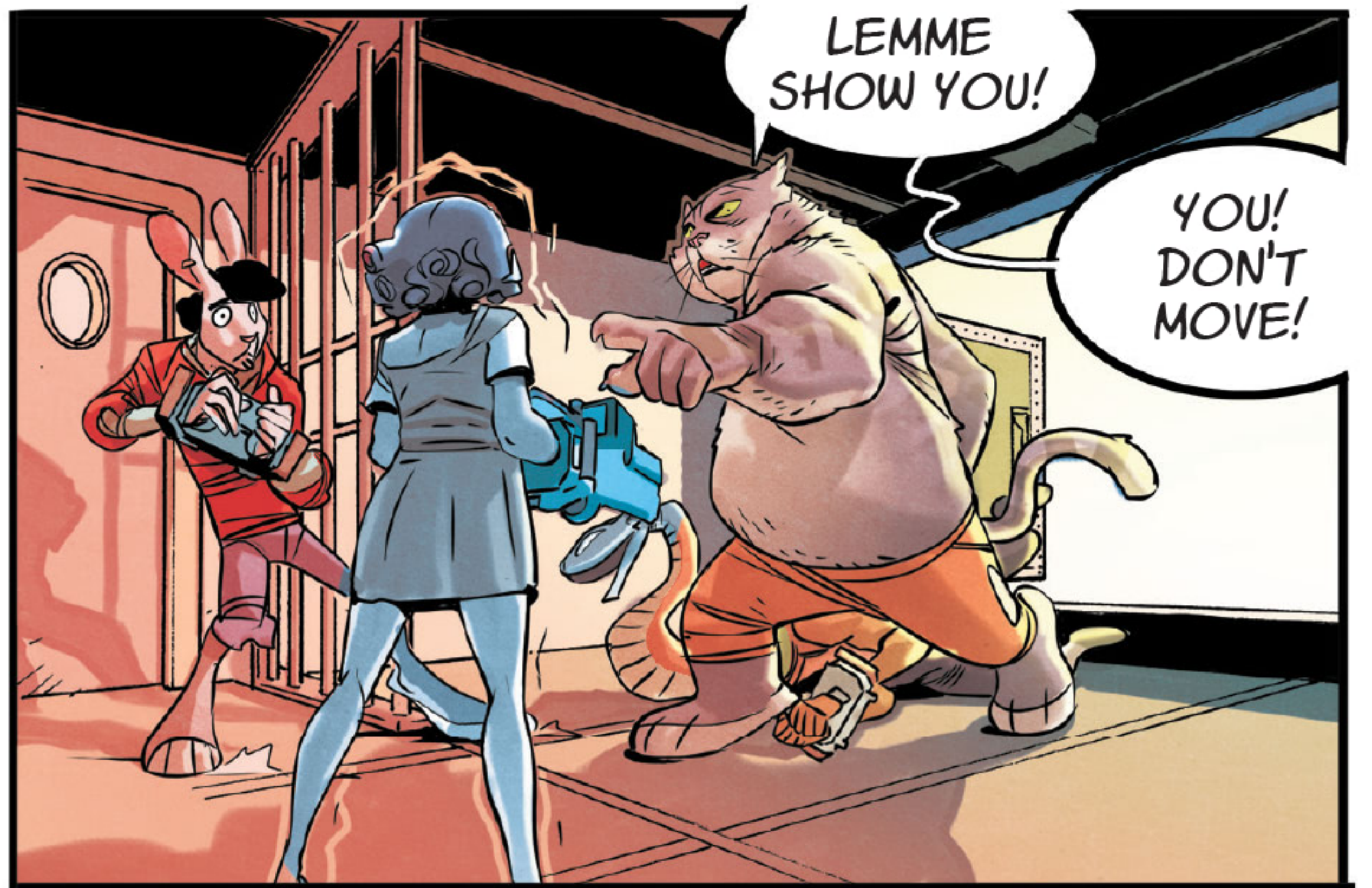
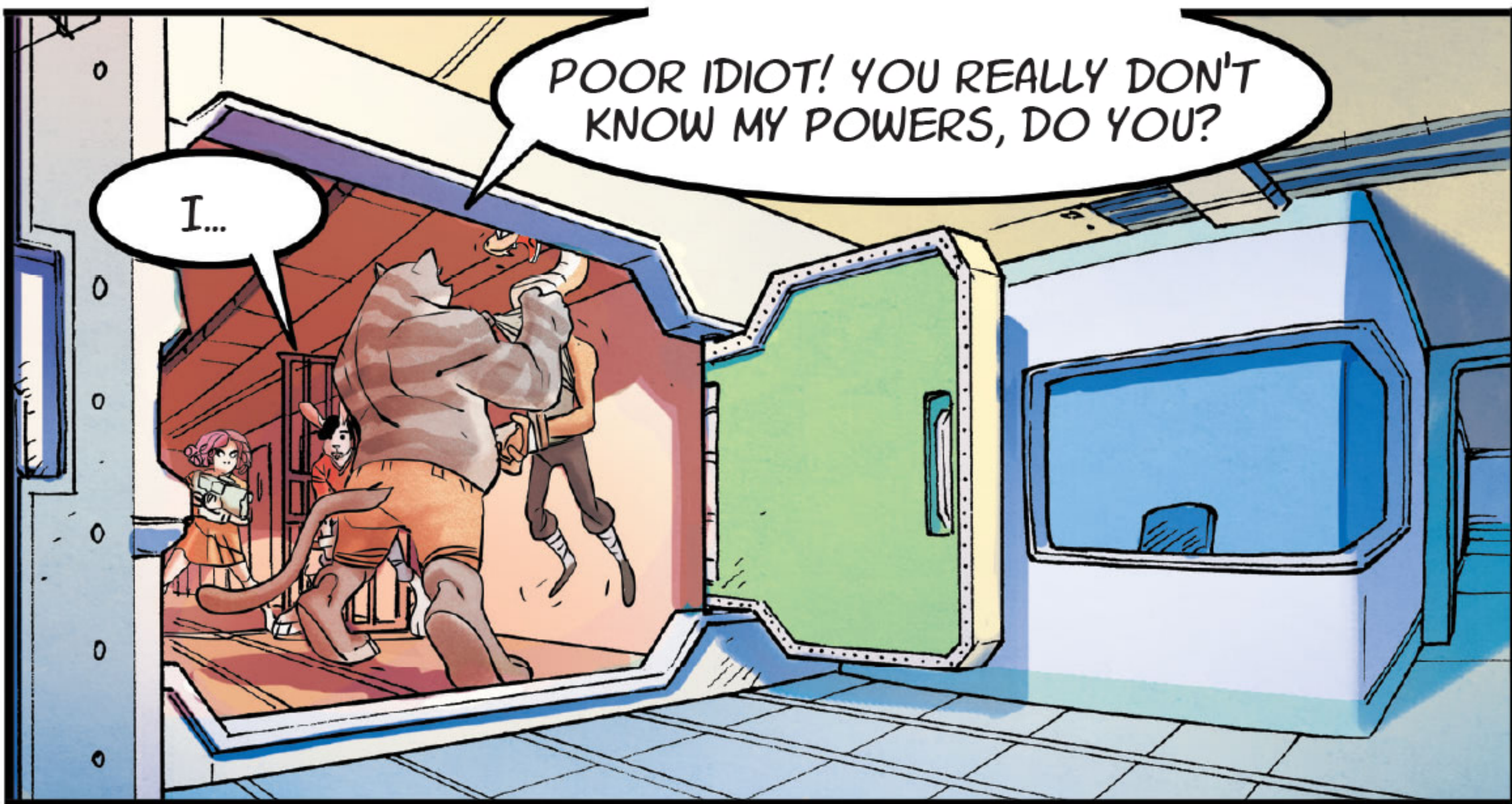
COME BACK
HERE!

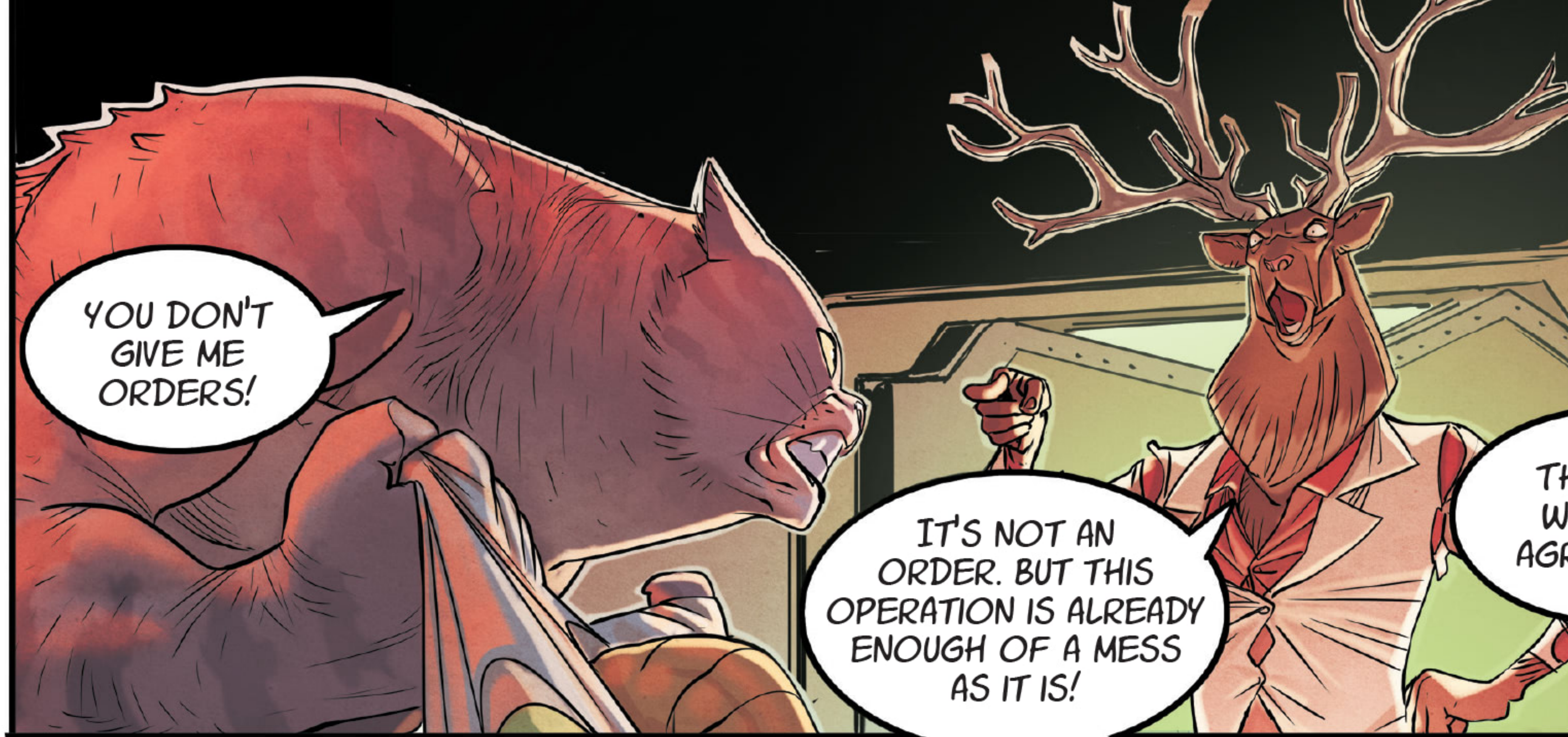
CRAC!

AH!
MY ARM!









YOU DON'T GIVE ME ORDERS!

IT'S NOT AN ORDER. BUT THIS OPERATION IS ALREADY ENOUGH OF A MESS AS IT IS!

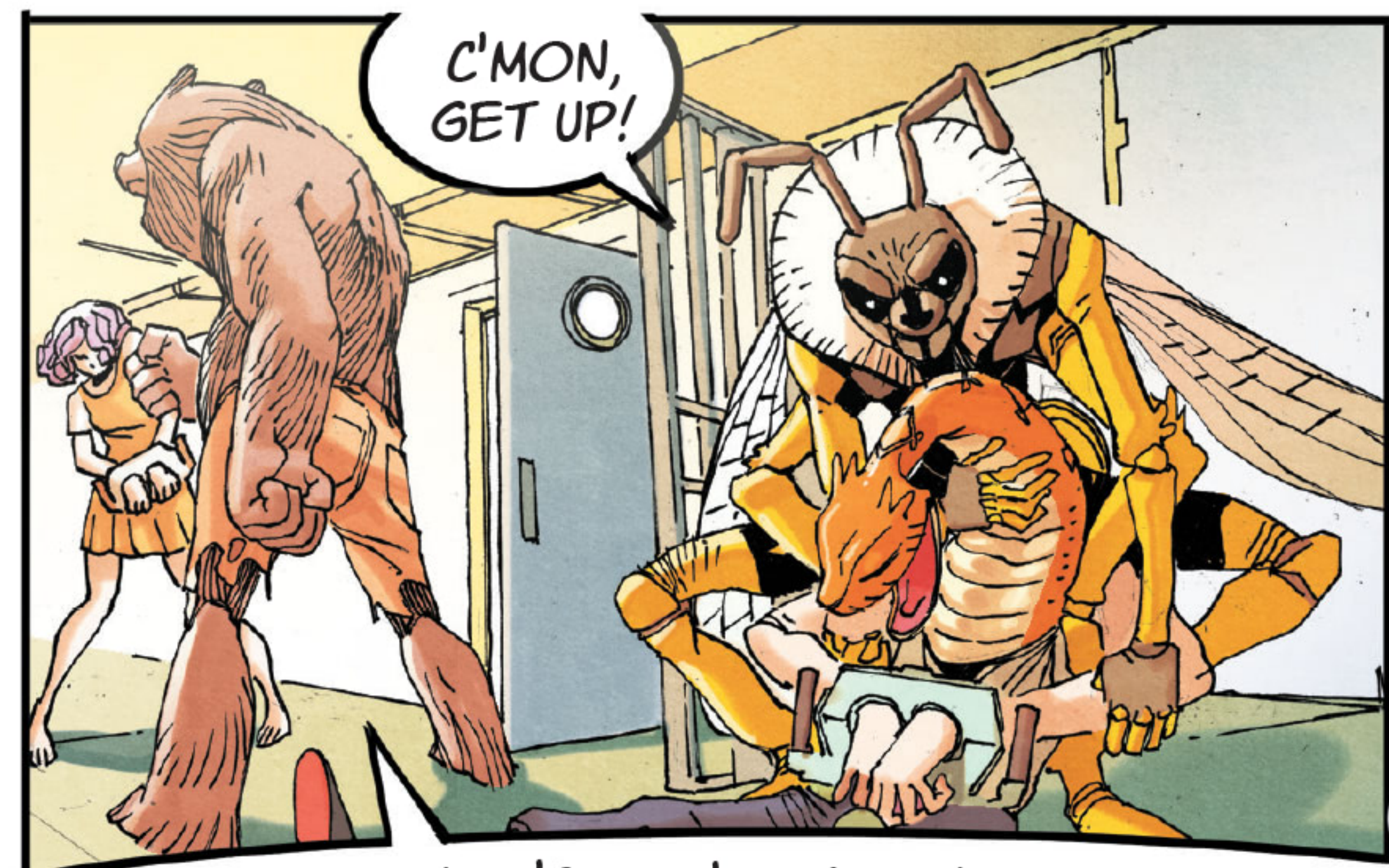
THIS ISN'T WHAT WE AGREED TO.



FINE. YOU CAN PUT THESE TWO BACK IN THEIR CELL. I'VE GOT OTHER THINGS TO DO.

WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.

SURE, ADD IT TO MY CALENDAR.

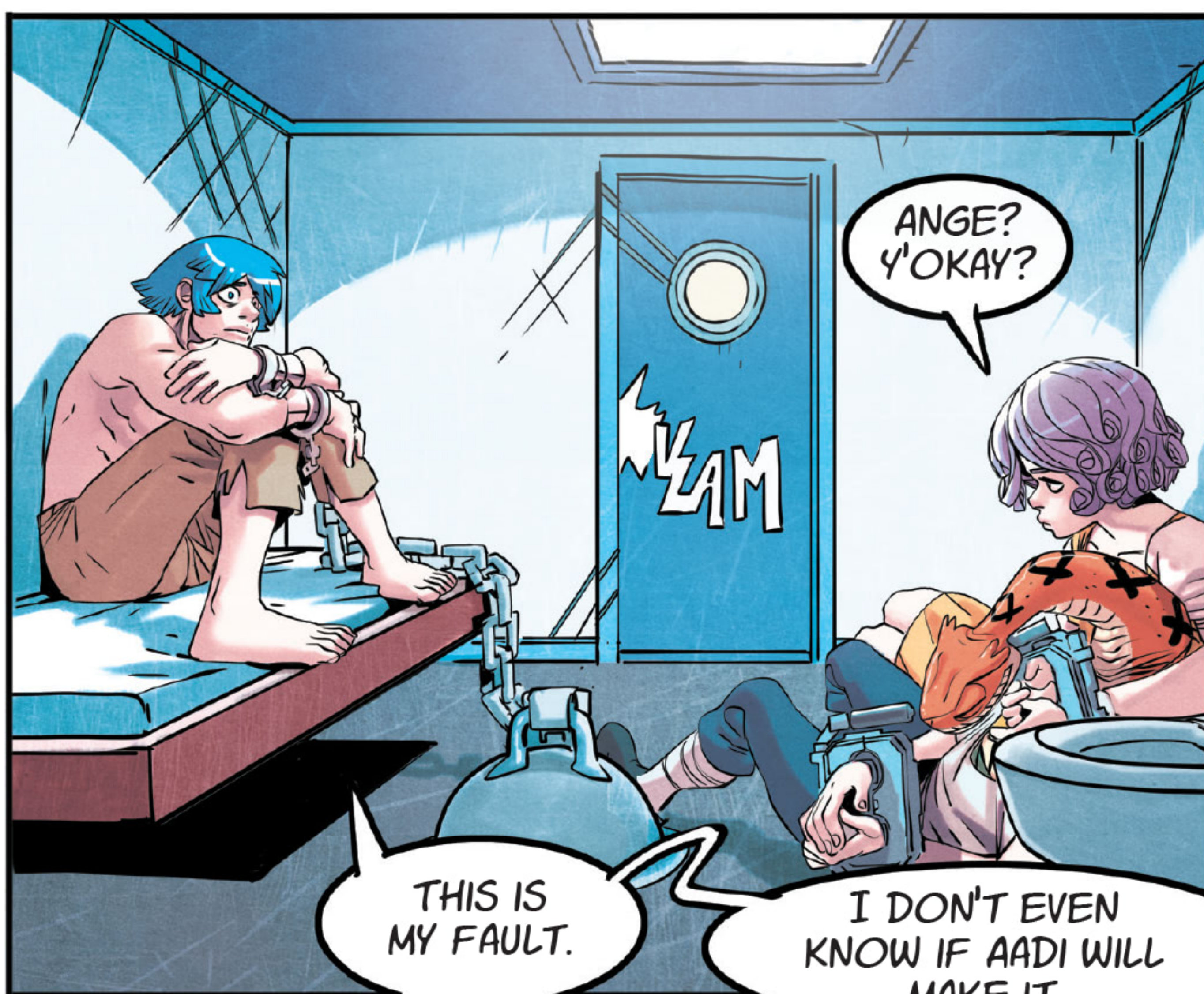


C'MON, GET UP!

LET'S PUT 'EM ALL IN HERE WHILE WE FIX THE OTHER CELLS.



PLAY NICE! NEXT TIME, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SAVE YOU!

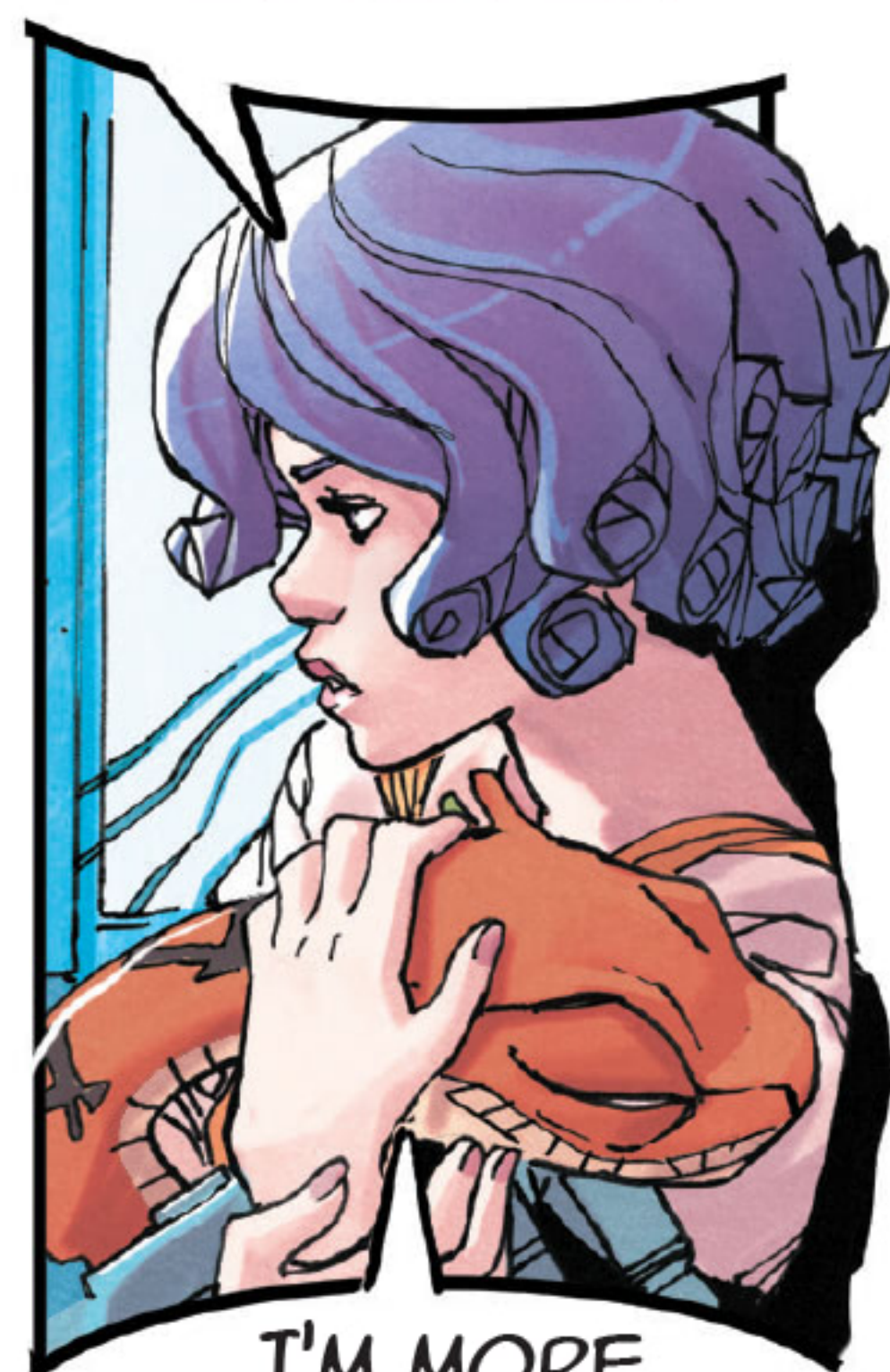


ANGE? Y'OKAY?

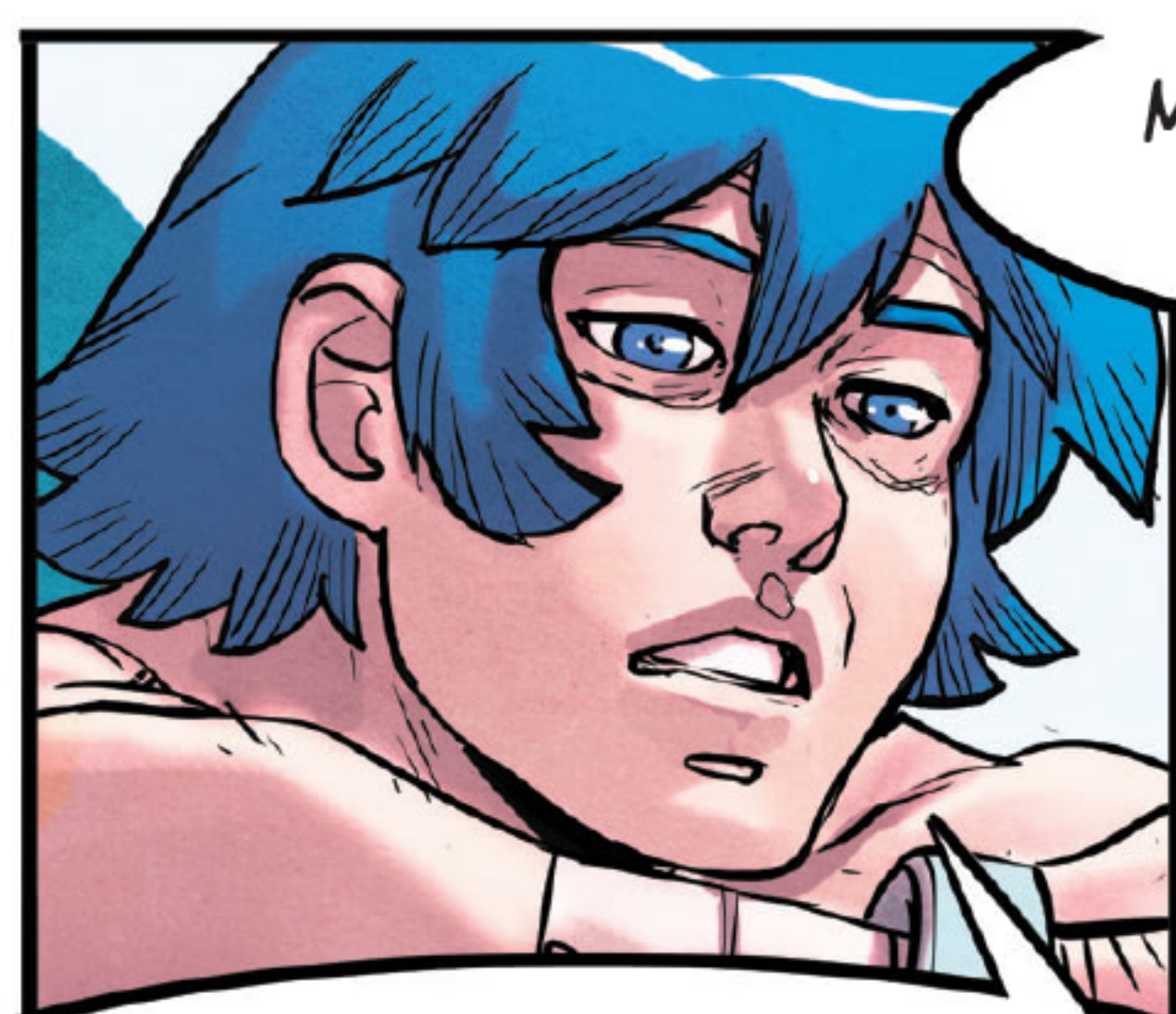
THIS IS MY FAULT.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF AADI WILL MAKE IT.

THE STAG SEEMS LESS CRAZY THAN THE OTHERS. HE'LL HELP AADI GET BACK ON HIS FEET.



I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU...



YOU KNOW ME. GOTTA HIT BOTTOM BEFORE I CAN GET BACK UP.

MIKE, YOU TAKE FIRST SHIFT. DON'T LET THEM START ANOTHER INCIDENT.



NO SWEAT. I'LL MAUL THE FIRST ONE THAT MAKES A MOVE.



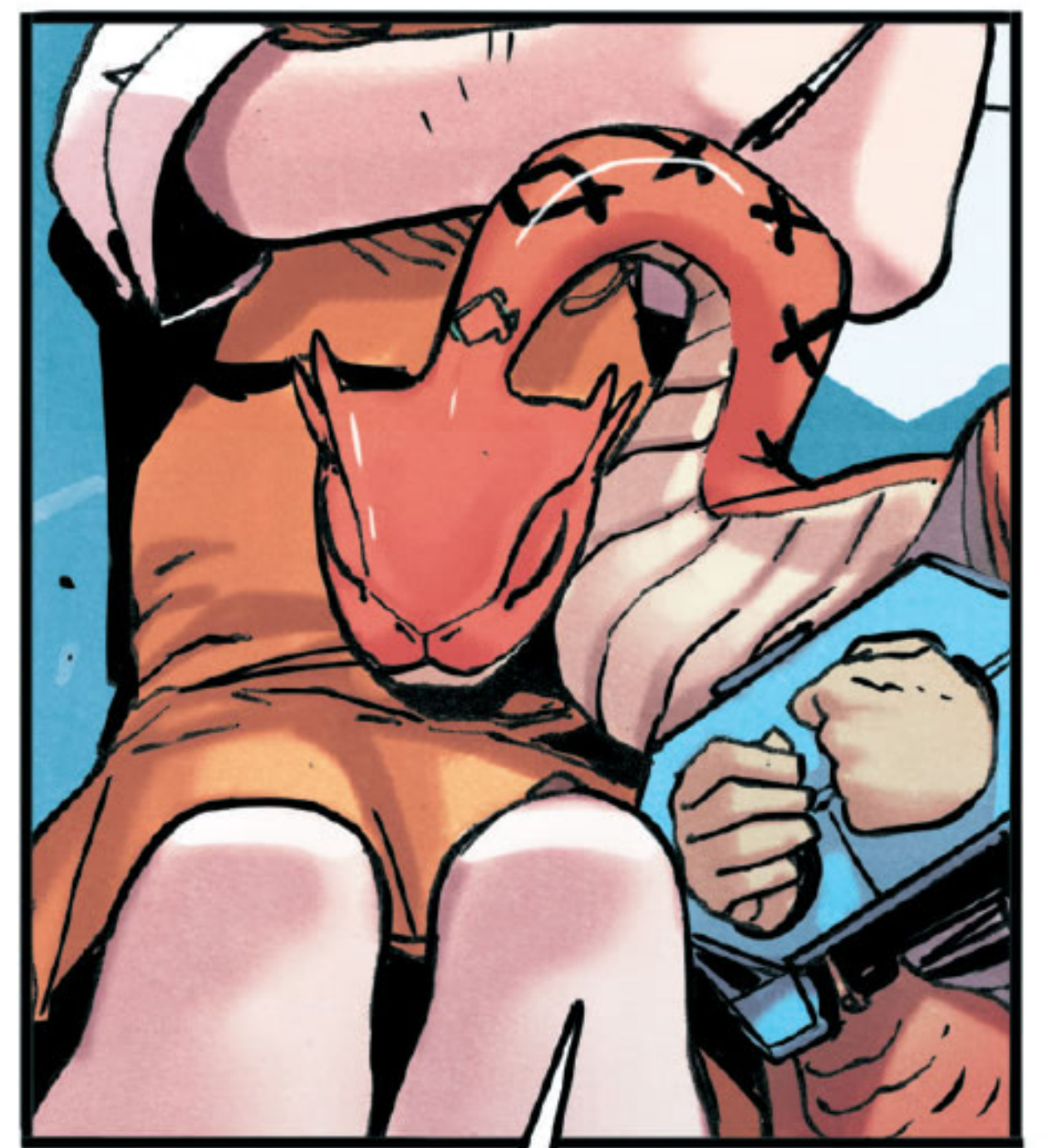
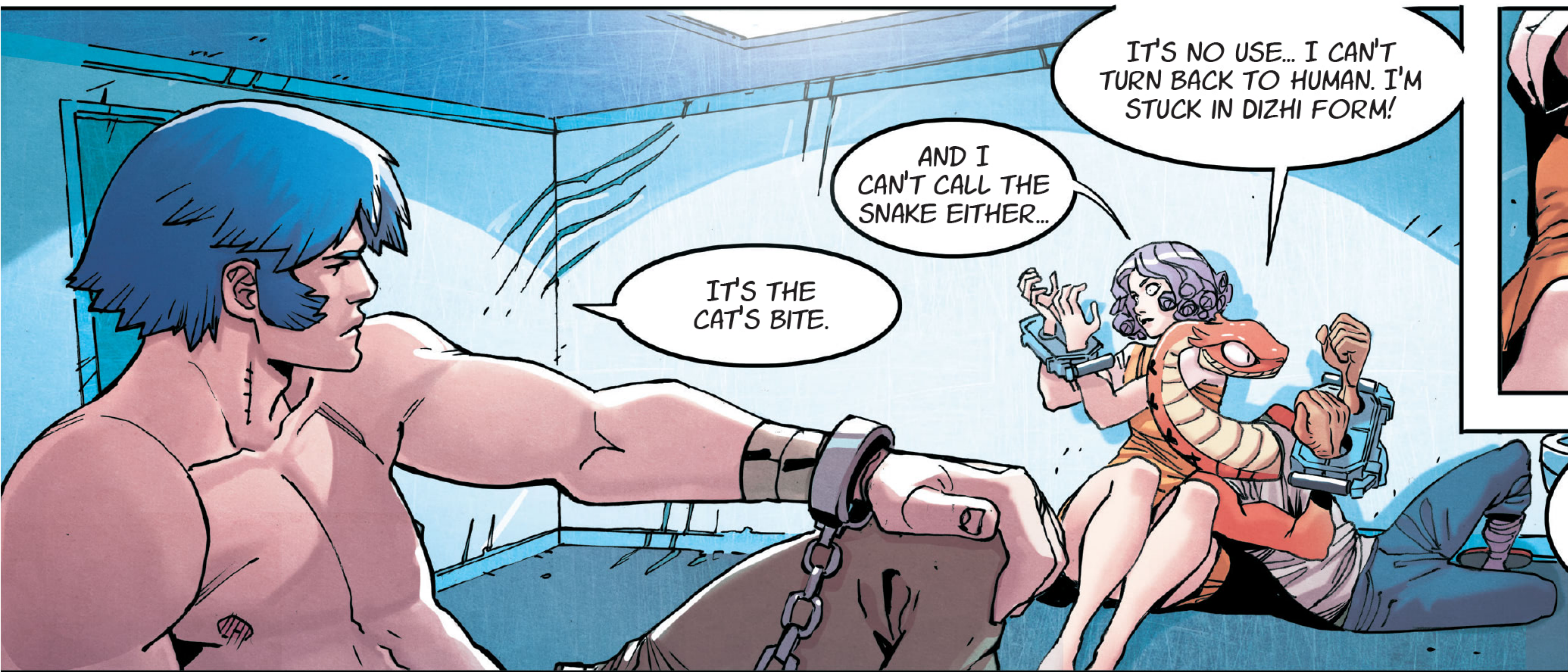
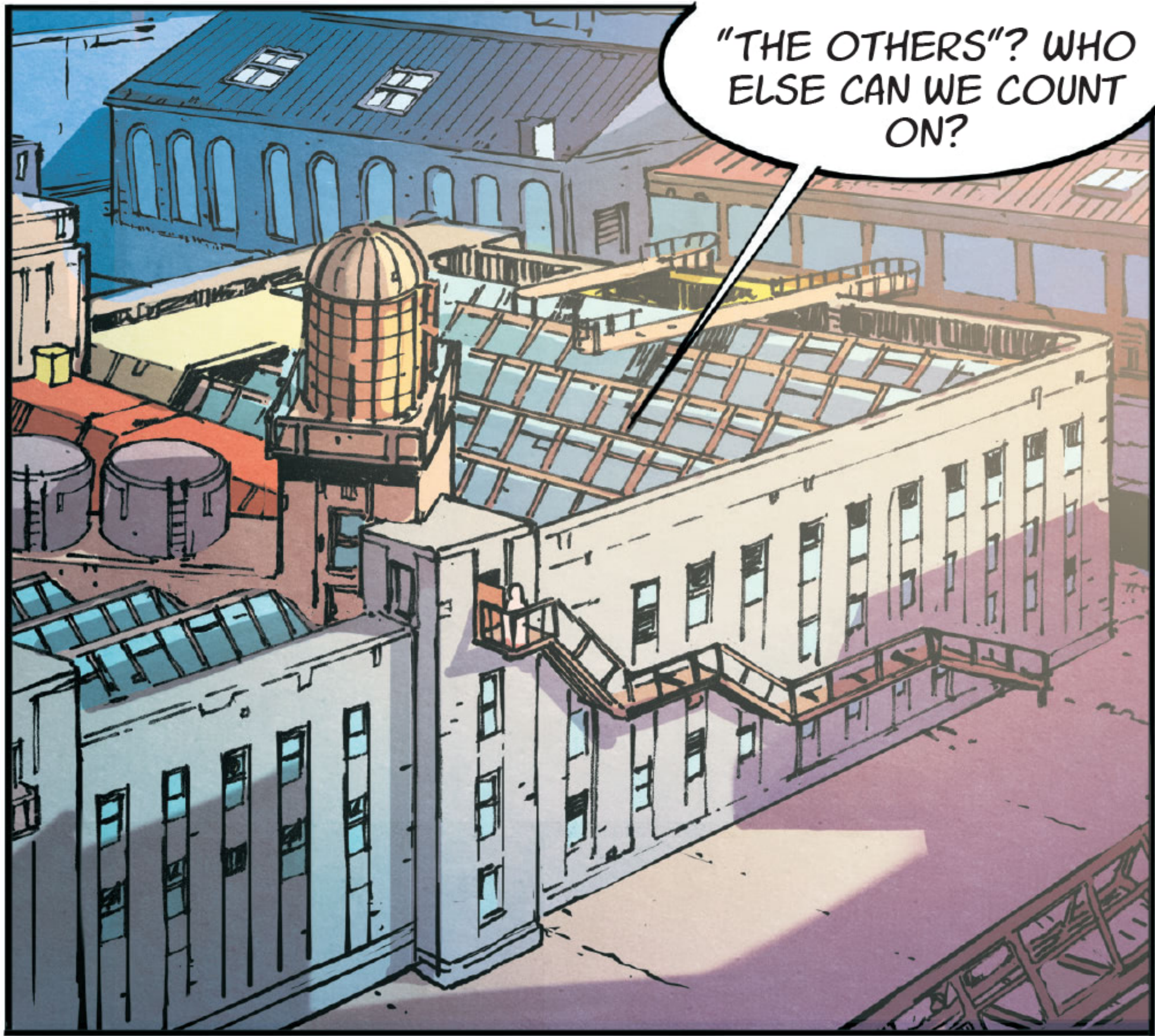
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU OUT AGAIN.



I FEAR THIS WAS EXACTLY WHAT I EXPECTED...

YES. SAMIR IS HARD TO CONTROL...

WE SHOULD CONTACT THE OTHERS.





HE'D JUST GO AND LIVE WHEREVER HE PLEASED. THE ORGANIZATION'S MONEY LET HIM SETTLE ANYWHERE.



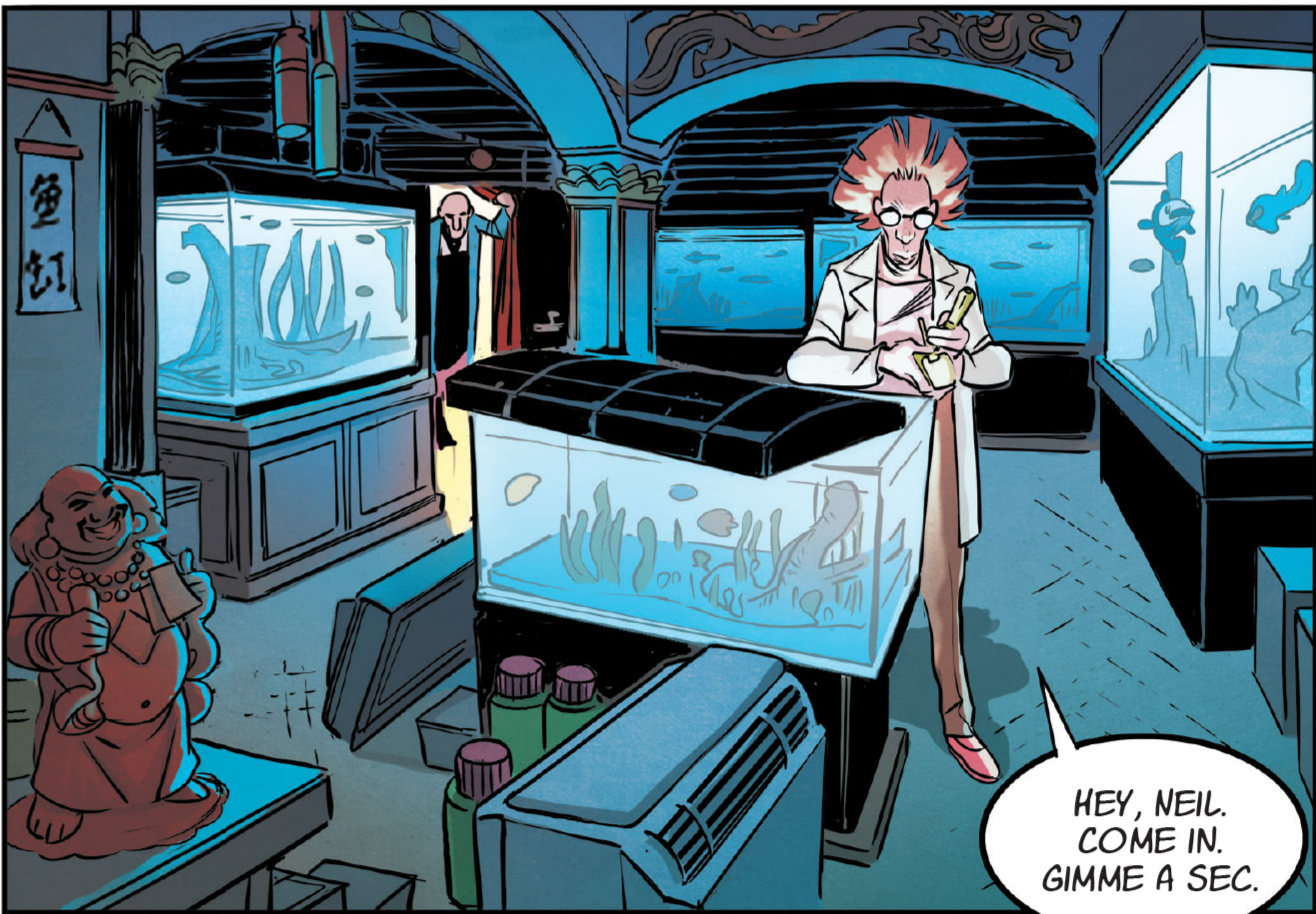
I THINK, DESPITE HIS MANY GIFTS, HE'S A ROMANTIC.



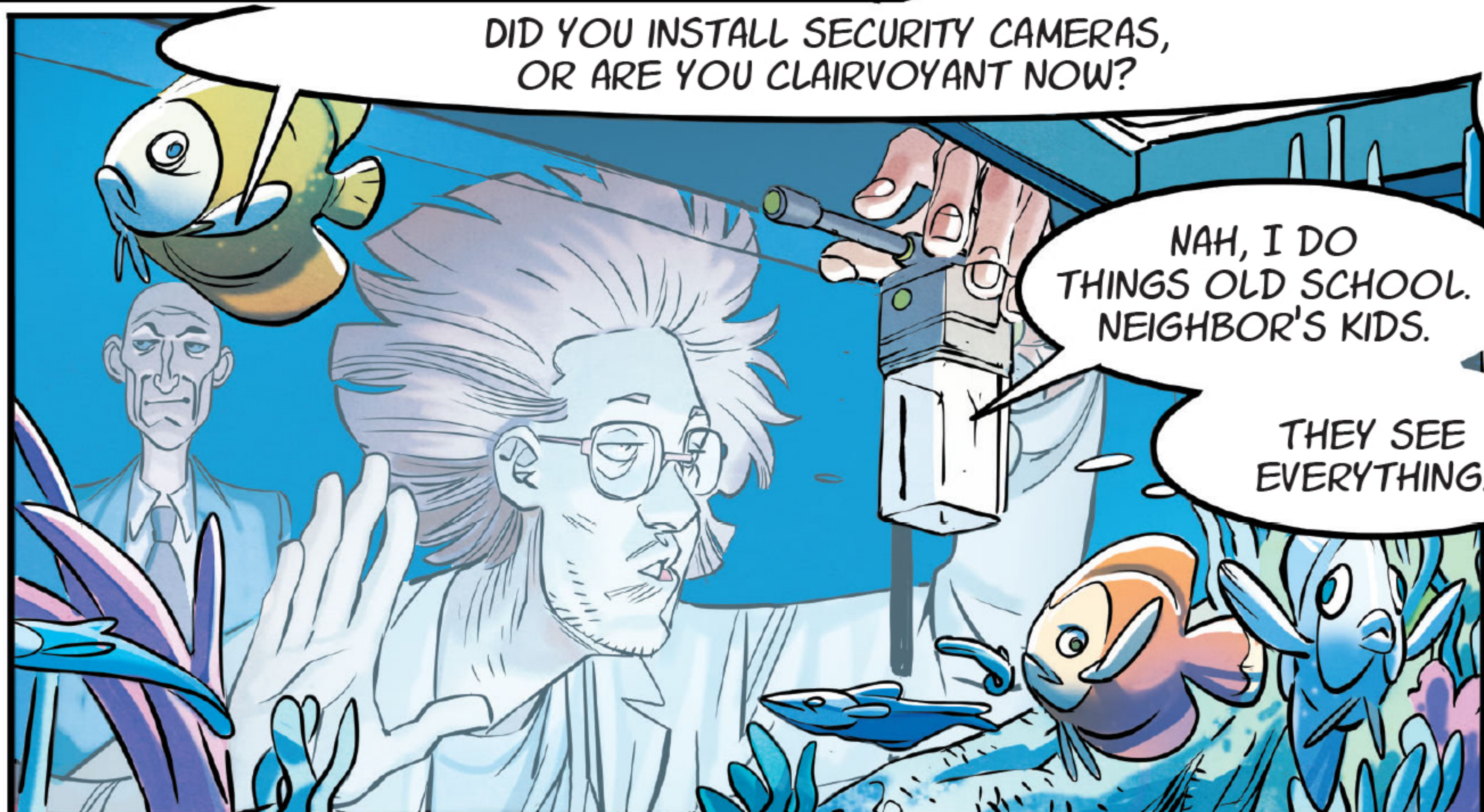
WE TOLD HIM TO STAY IN HIDING. HE PROBABLY THOUGHT THAT MEANT SOME SWEATY SLUM.



BUT HE WASN'T WRONG. WHEN SOMEONE NEW COMES TO TOWN, HE KNOWS IT'S NOT JUST A RANDOM COINCIDENCE.



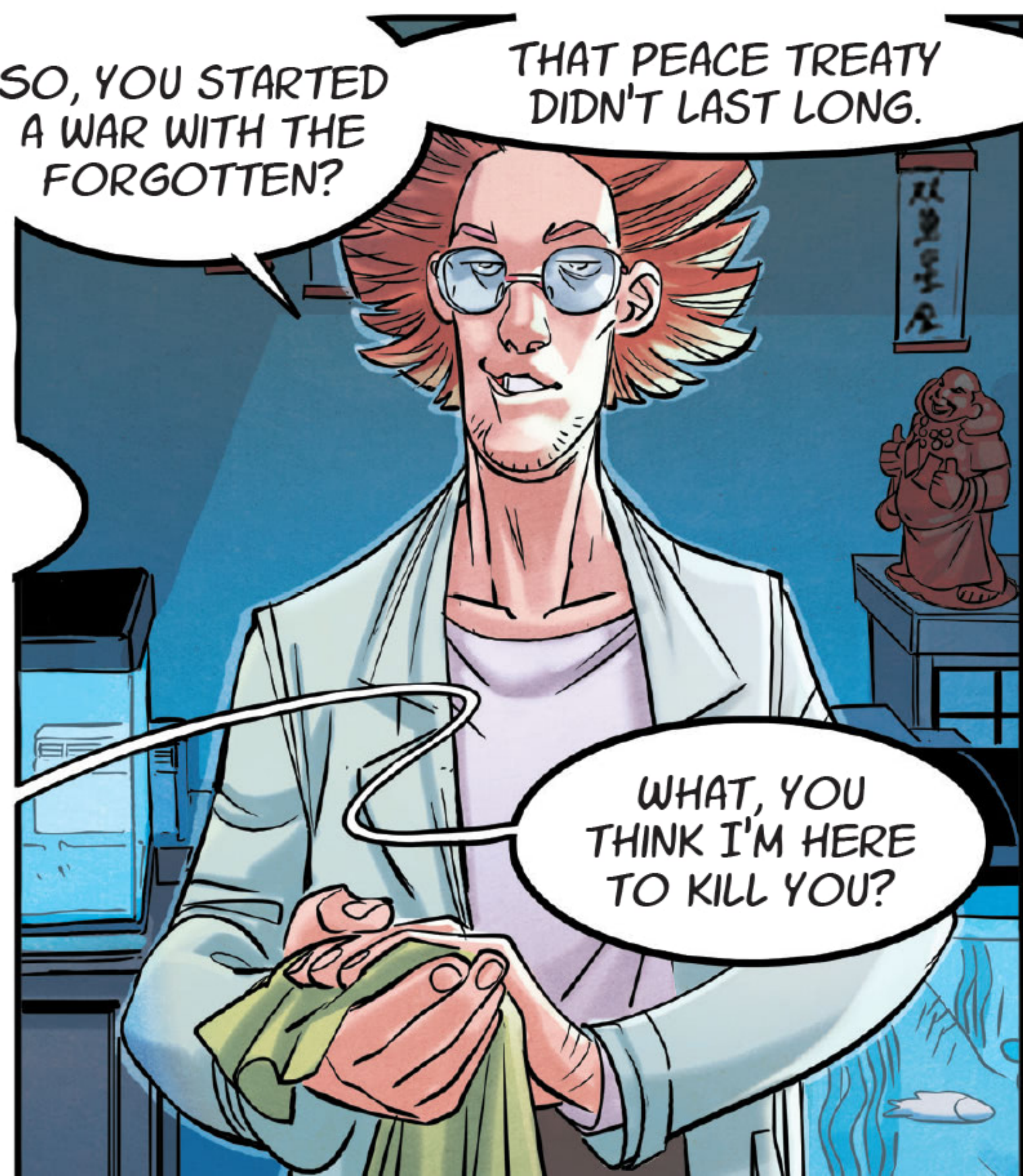
HEY, NEIL. COME IN. GIMME A SEC.



DID YOU INSTALL SECURITY CAMERAS, OR ARE YOU CLAIRVOYANT NOW?

NAH, I DO THINGS OLD SCHOOL. NEIGHBOR'S KIDS.

THEY SEE EVERYTHING.



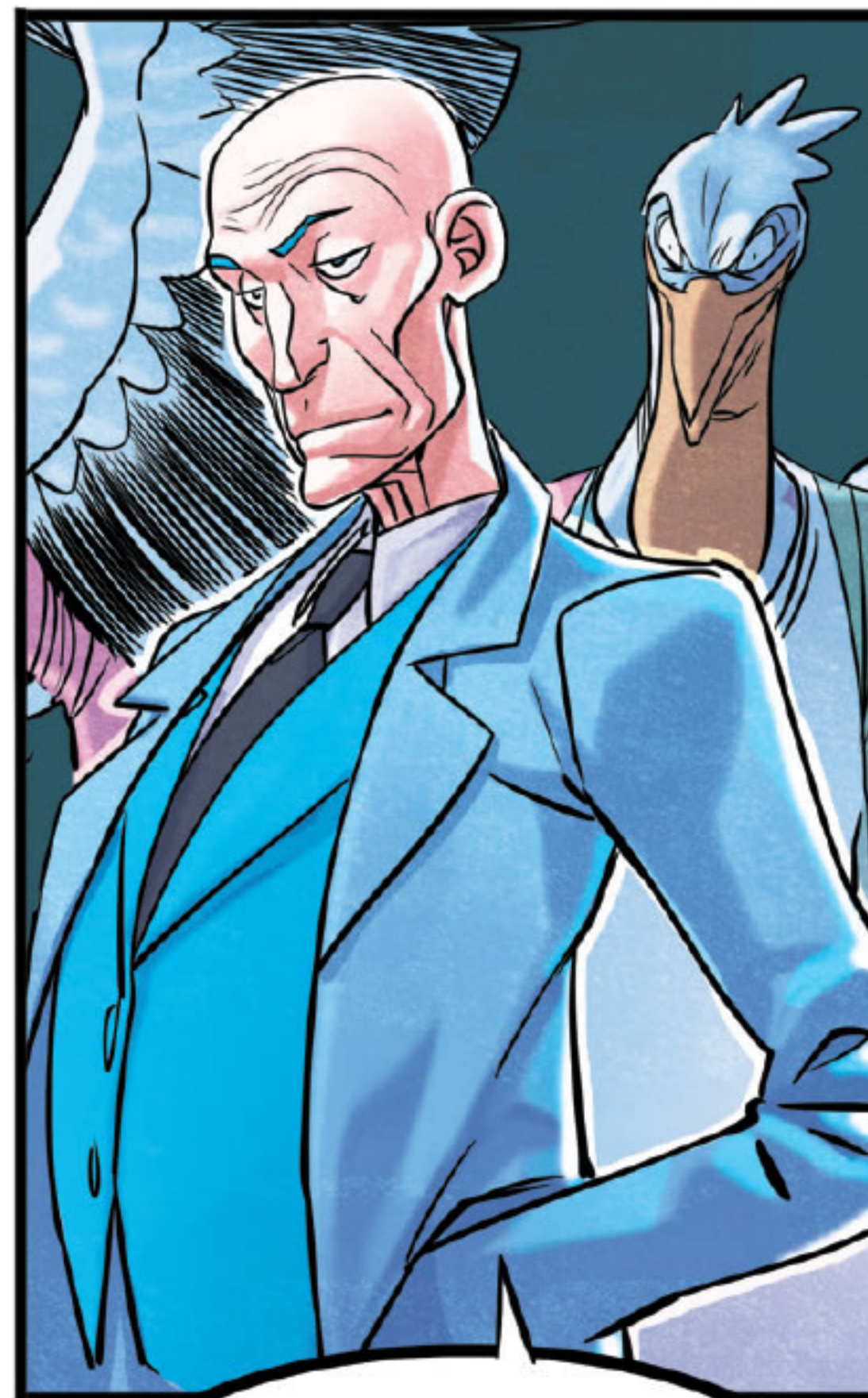
SO, YOU STARTED A WAR WITH THE FORGOTTEN?

THAT PEACE TREATY DIDN'T LAST LONG.

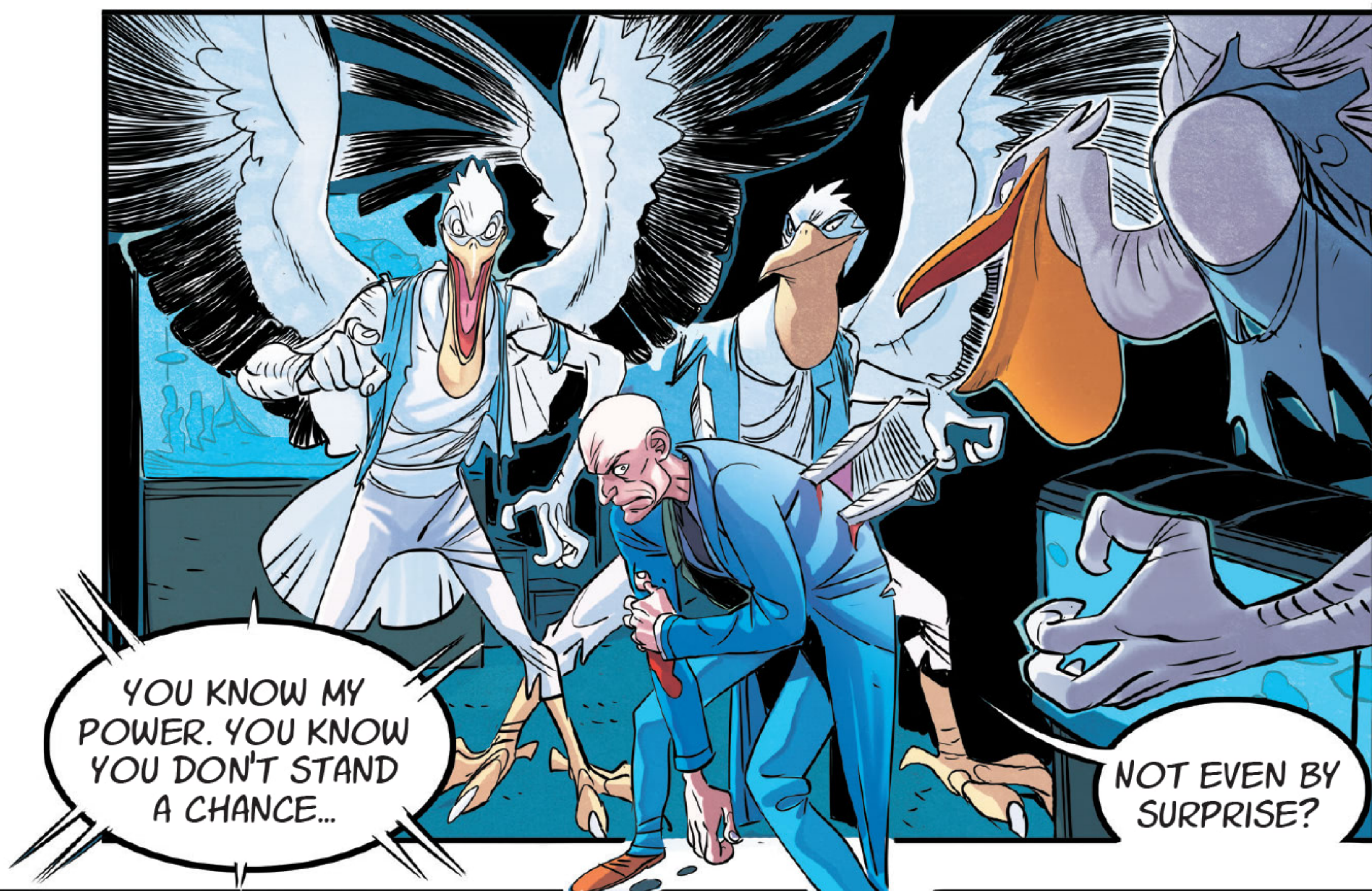
WHAT, YOU THINK I'M HERE TO KILL YOU?



YOU
MEAN "TRY"
TO KILL ME?

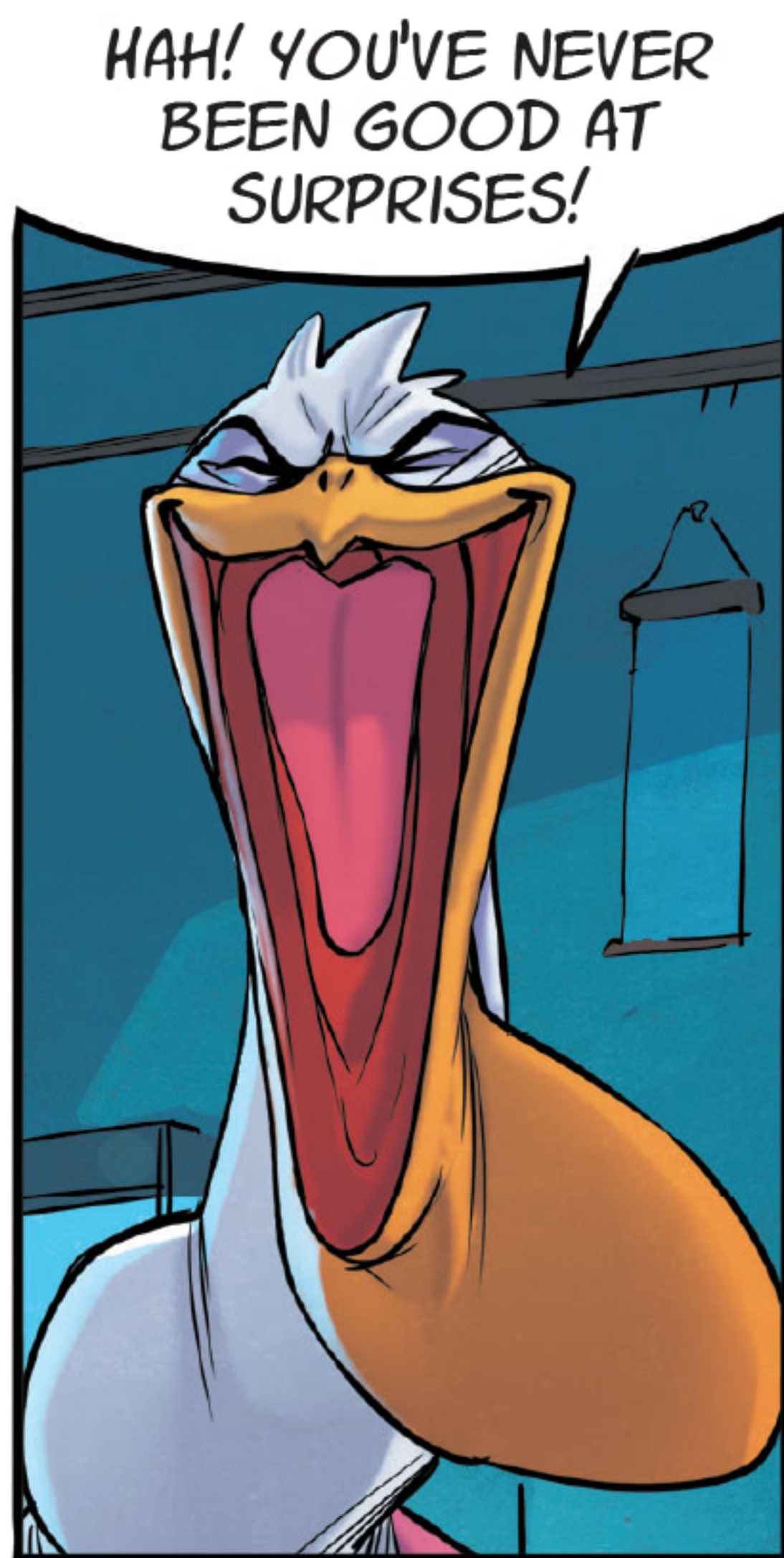


WHOA. YOU
DON'T MESS
AROUND!

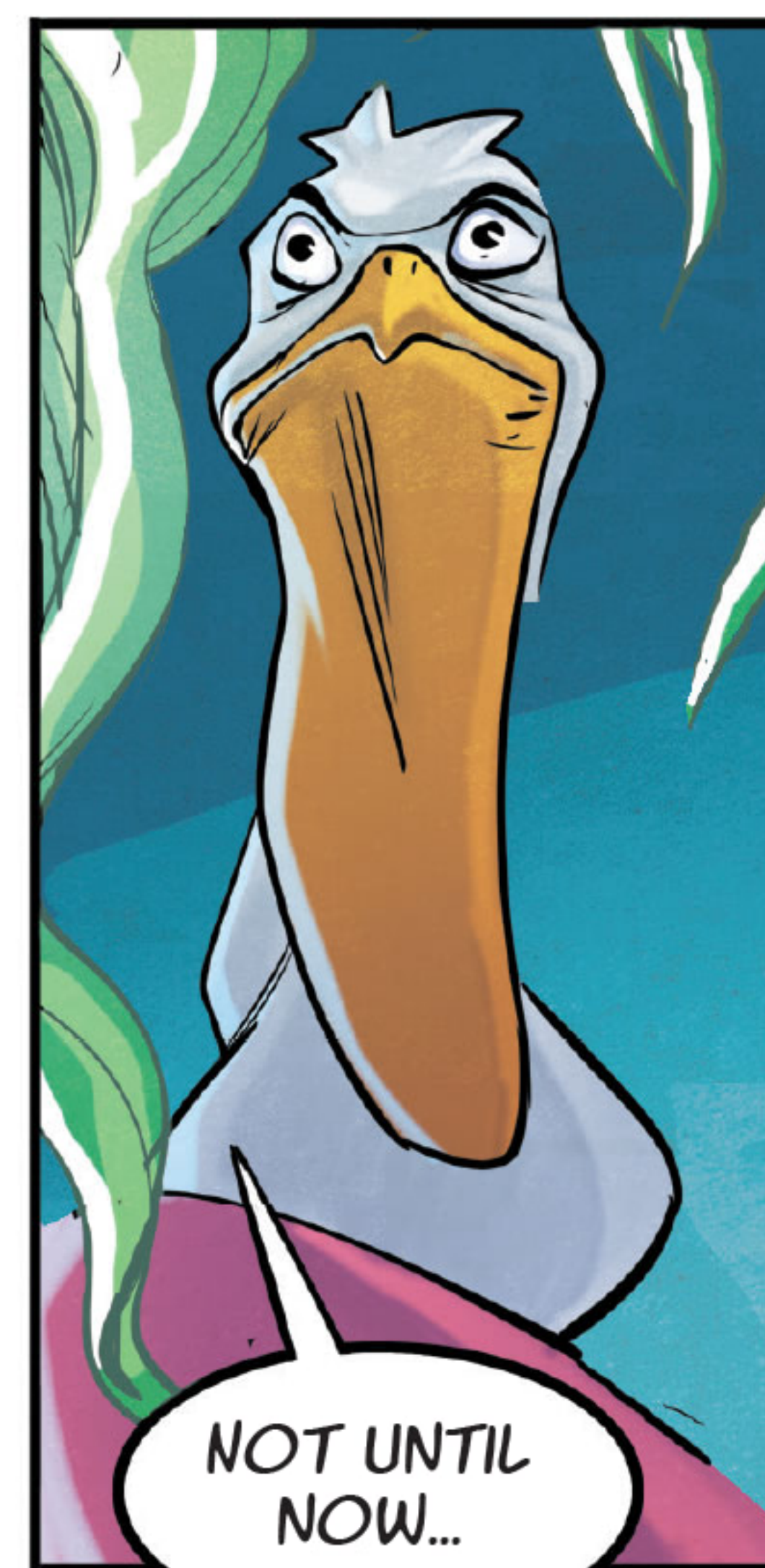


YOU KNOW MY
POWER. YOU KNOW
YOU DON'T STAND
A CHANCE...

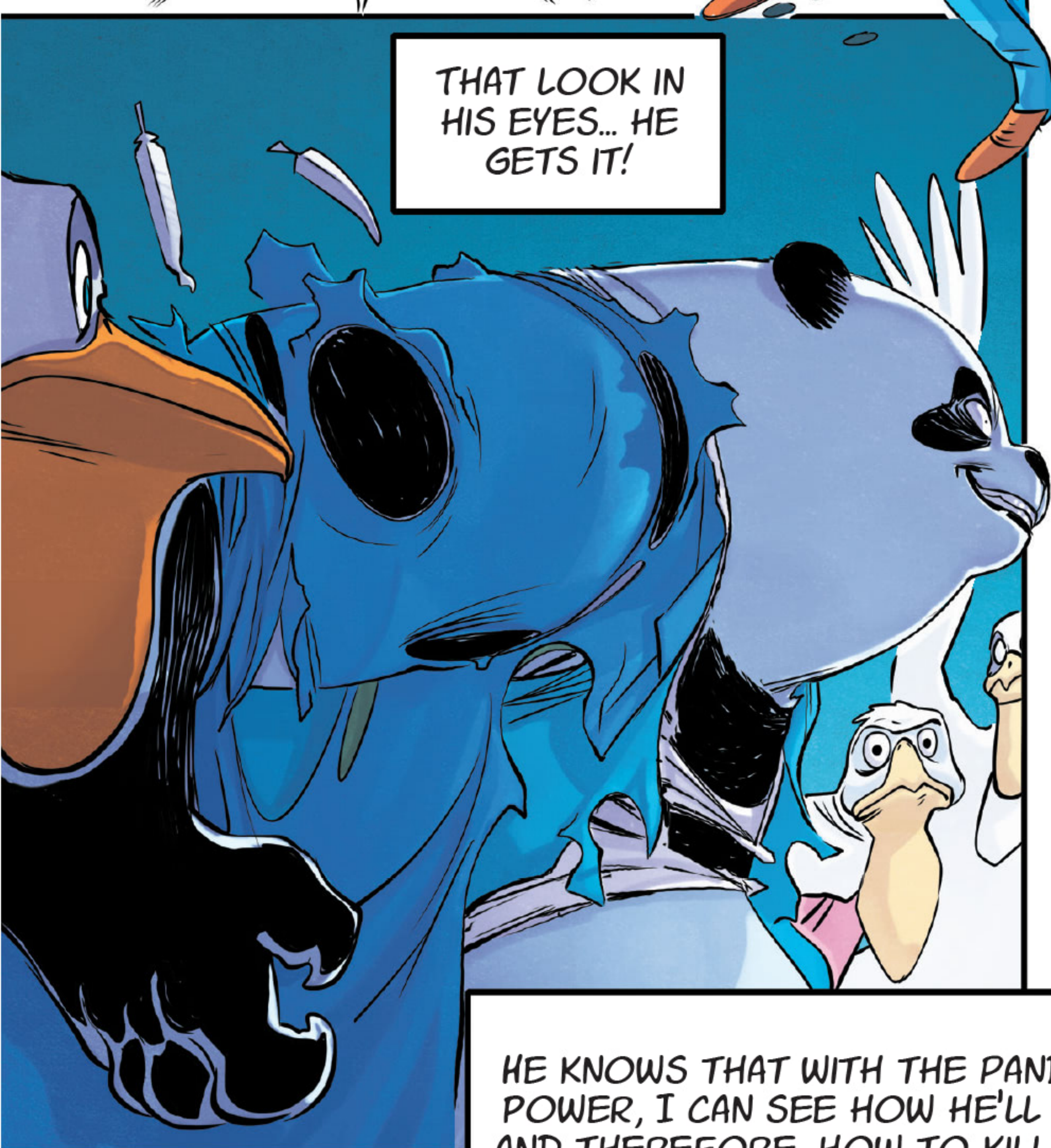
NOT EVEN BY
SURPRISE?



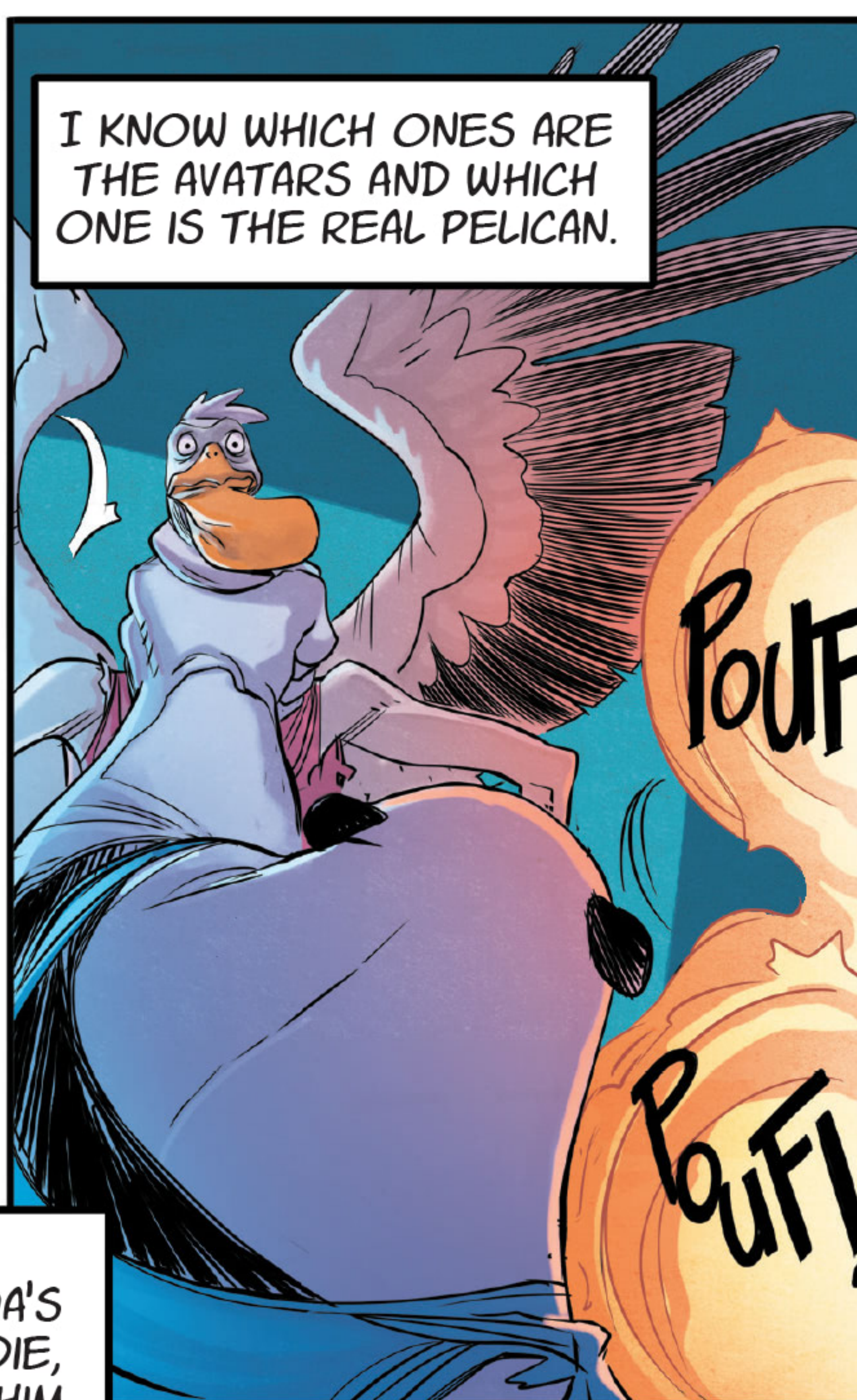
HAH! YOU'VE NEVER
BEEN GOOD AT
SURPRISES!



NOT UNTIL
NOW...



THAT LOOK IN
HIS EYES... HE
GETS IT!



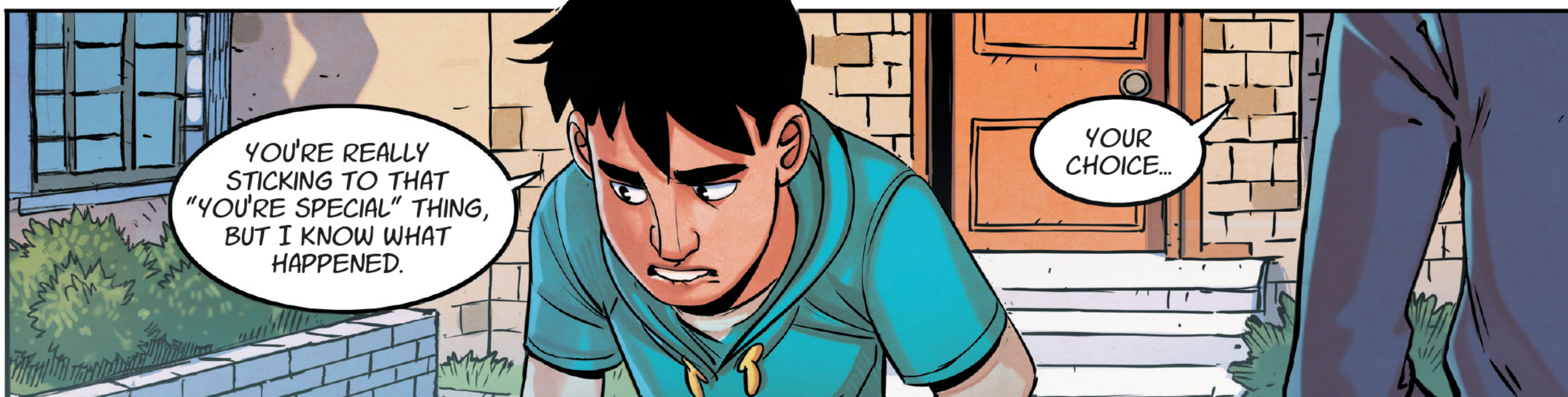
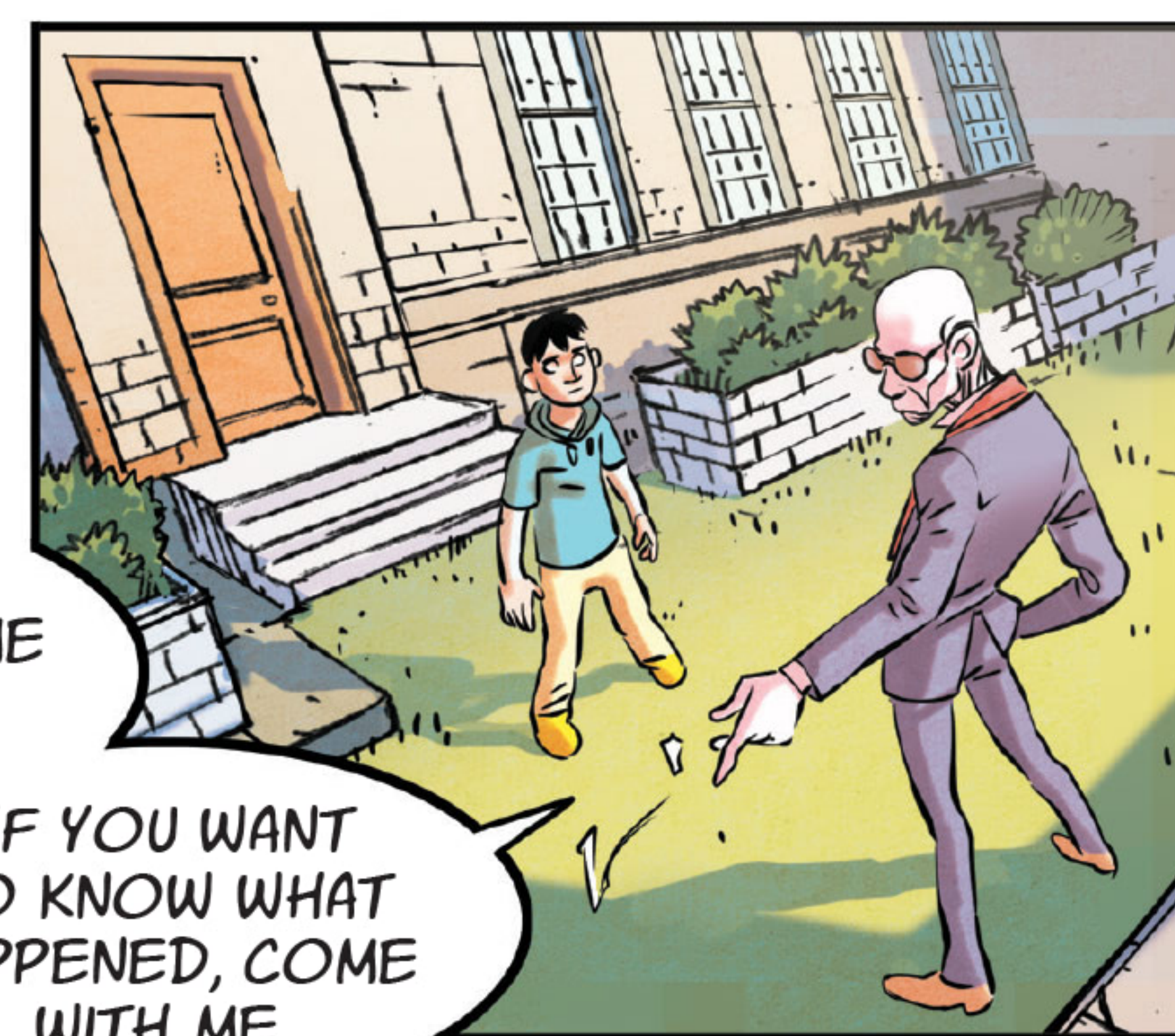
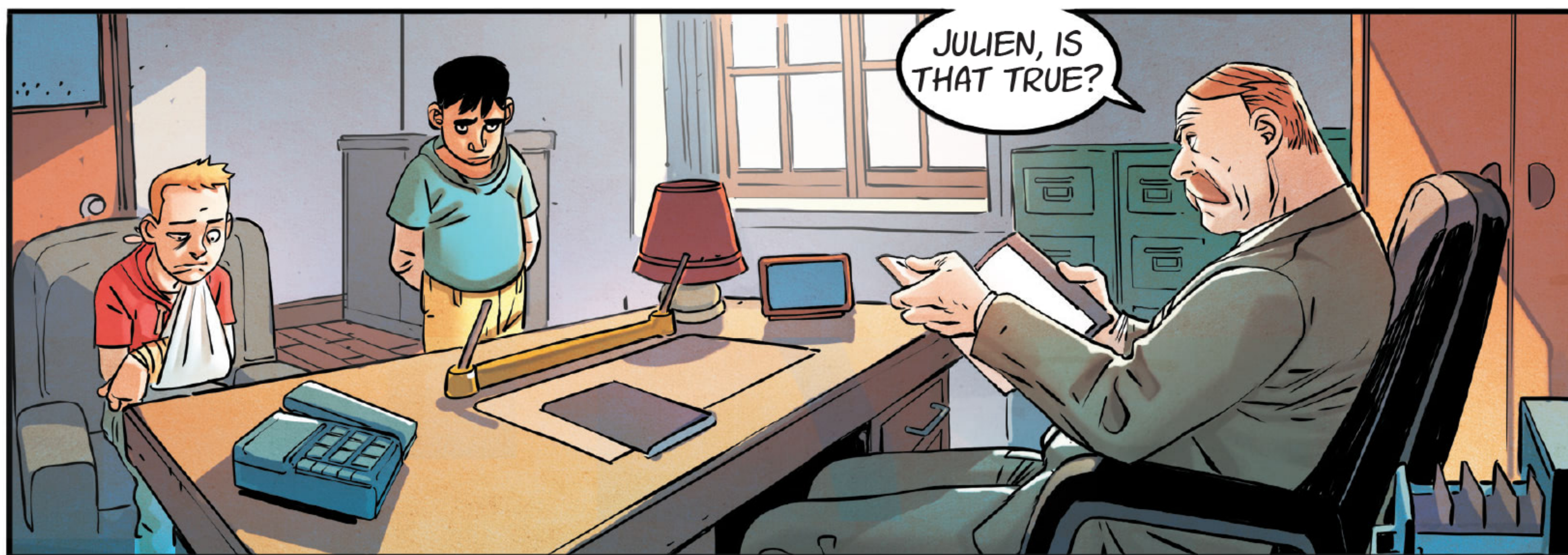
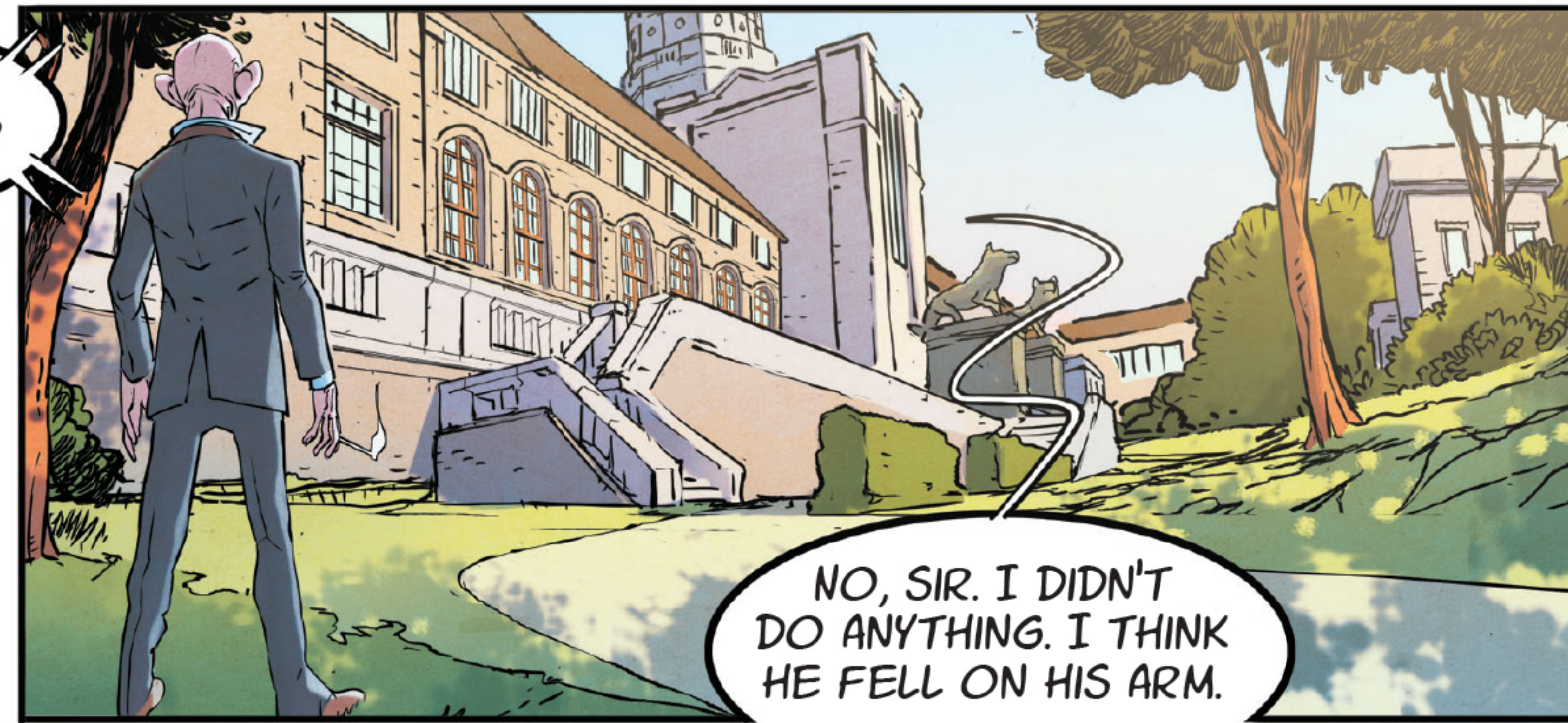
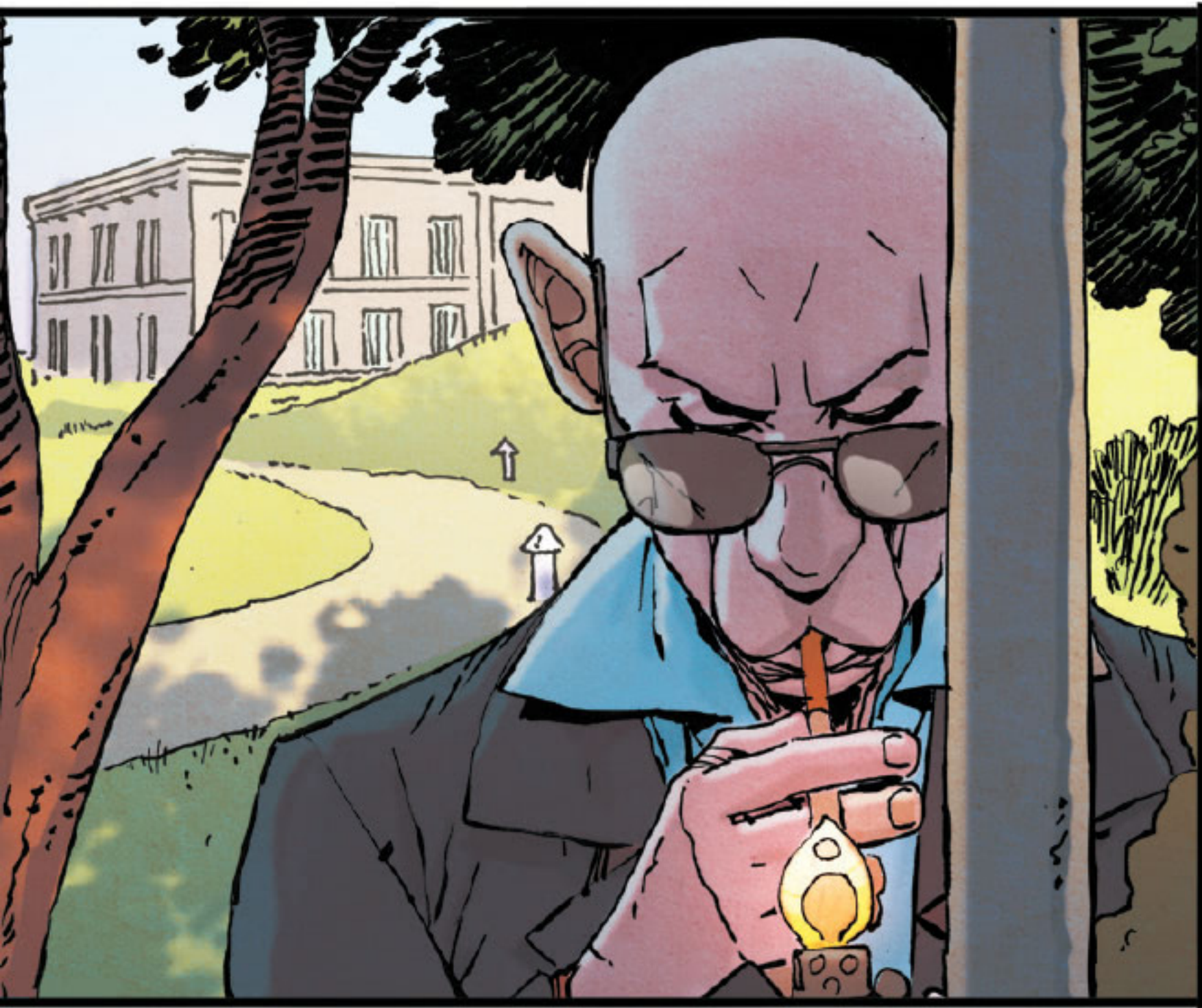
I KNOW WHICH ONES ARE
THE AVATARS AND WHICH
ONE IS THE REAL PELICAN.

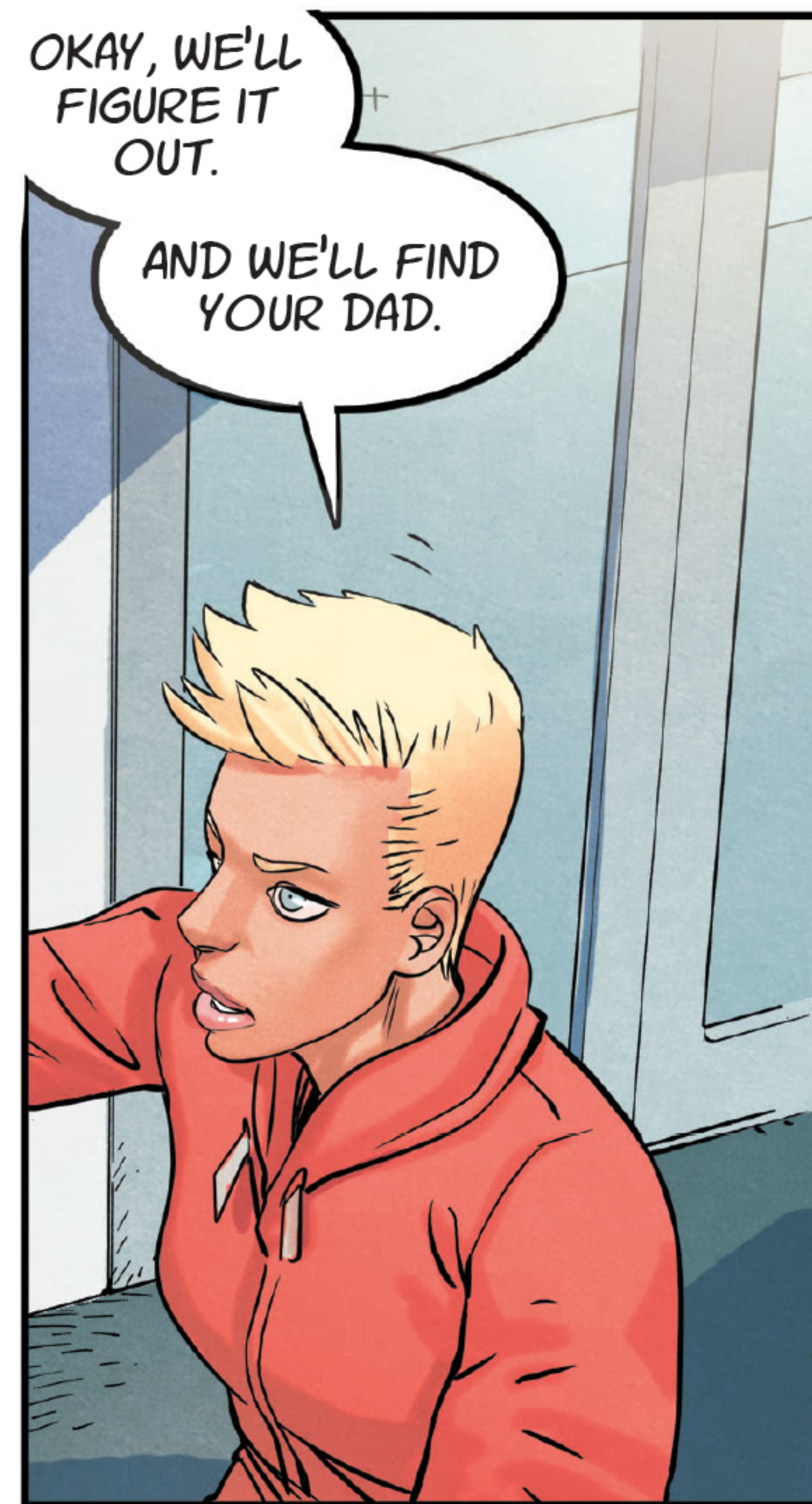
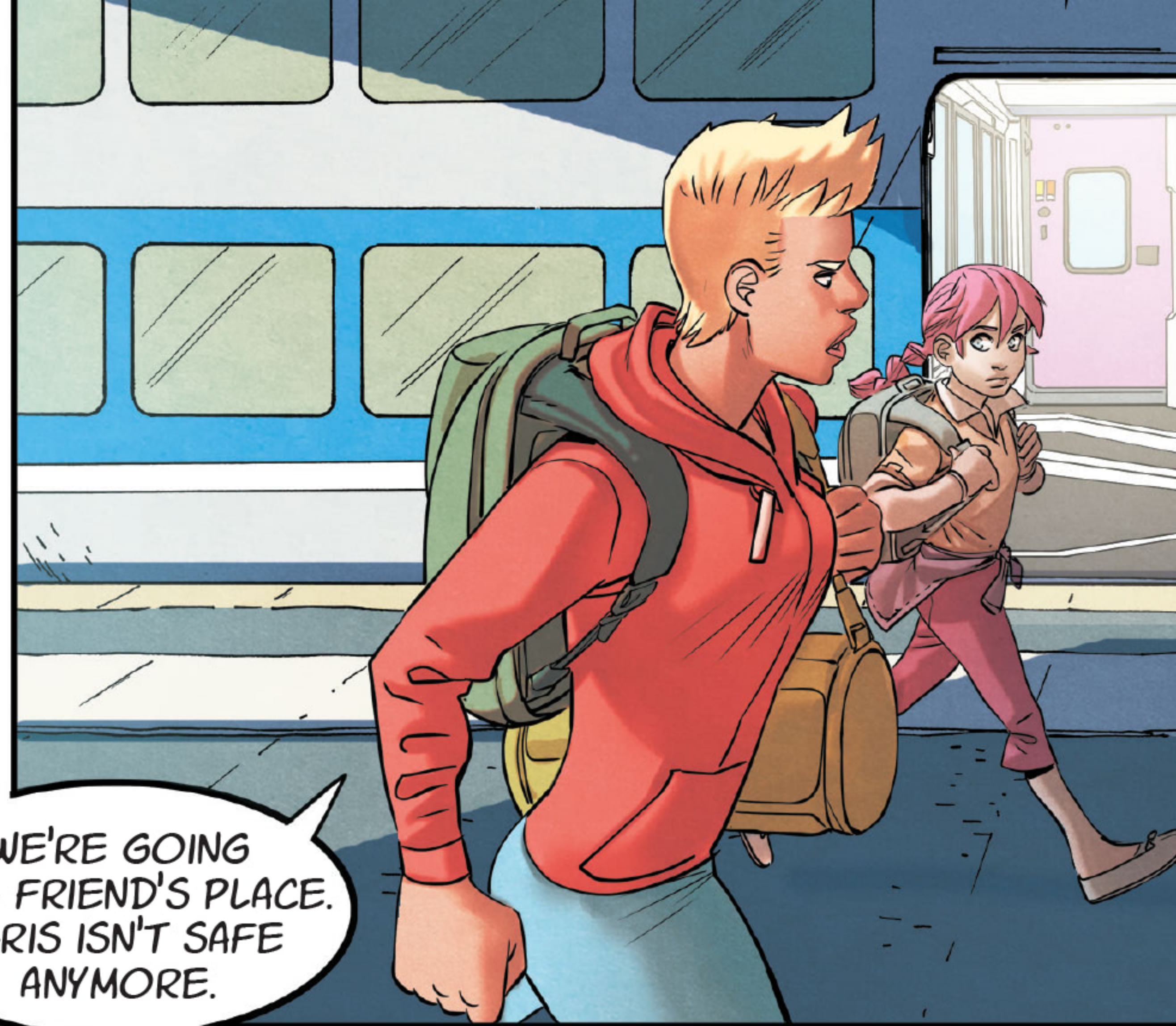
Pouff

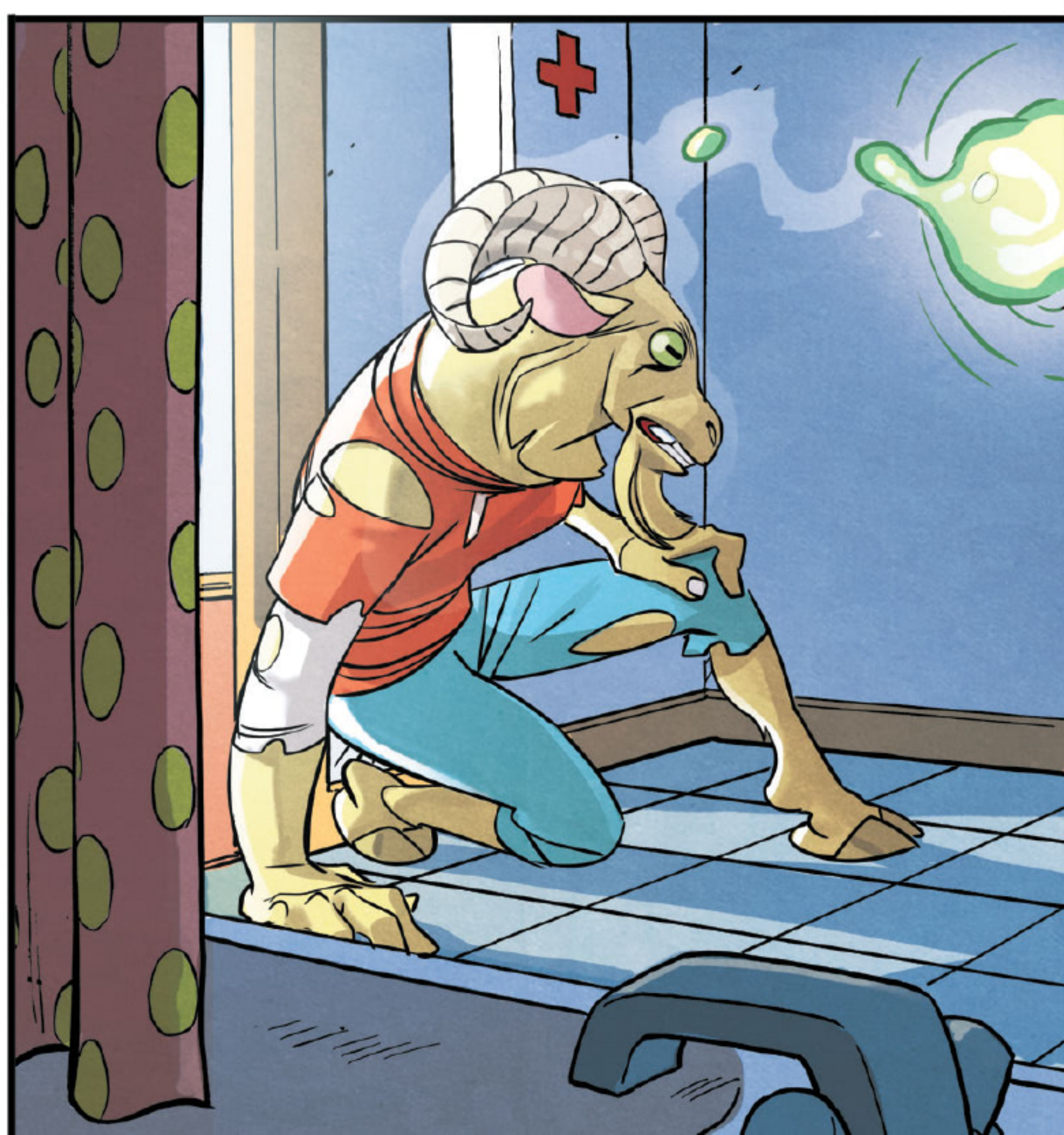
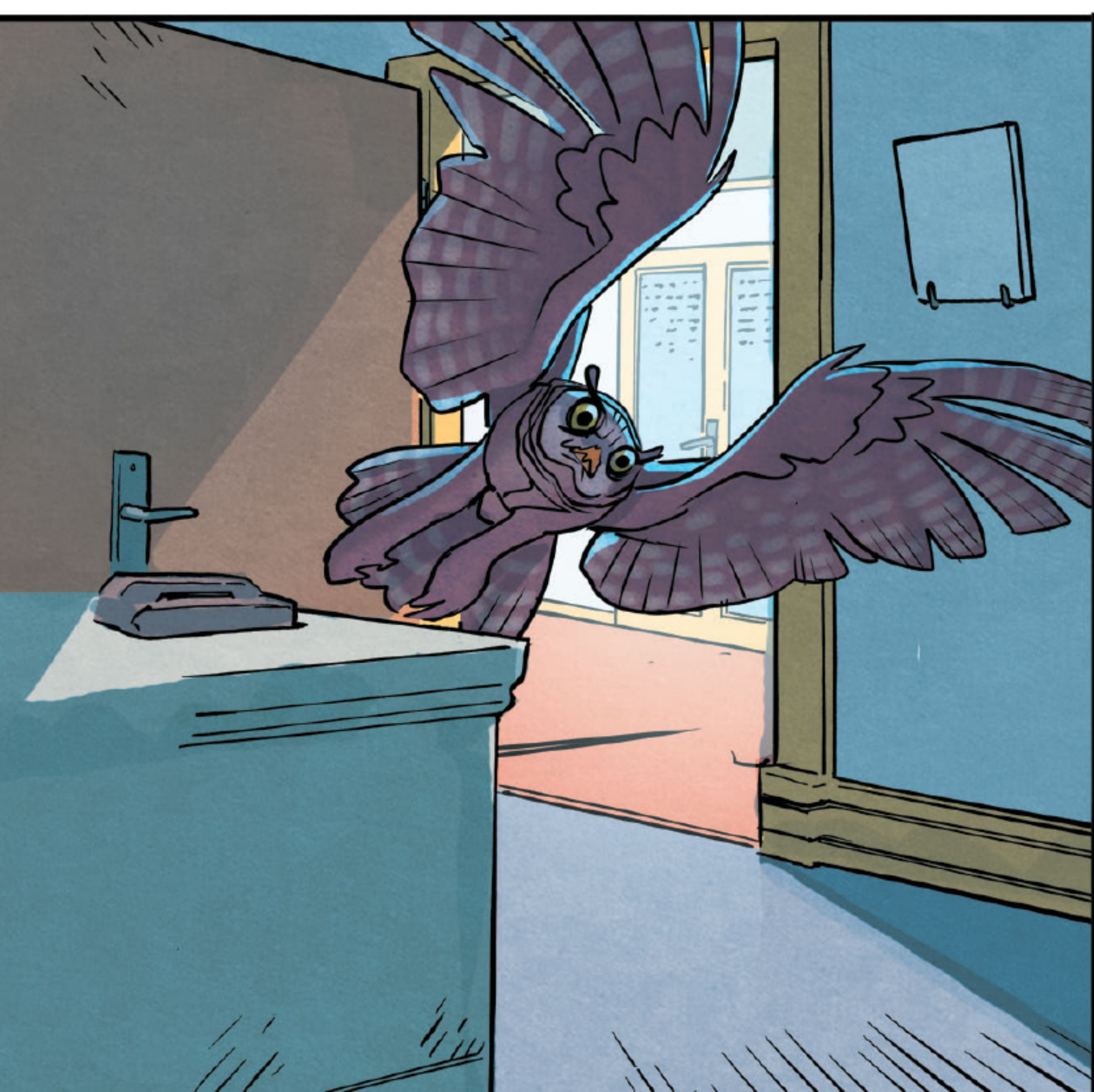
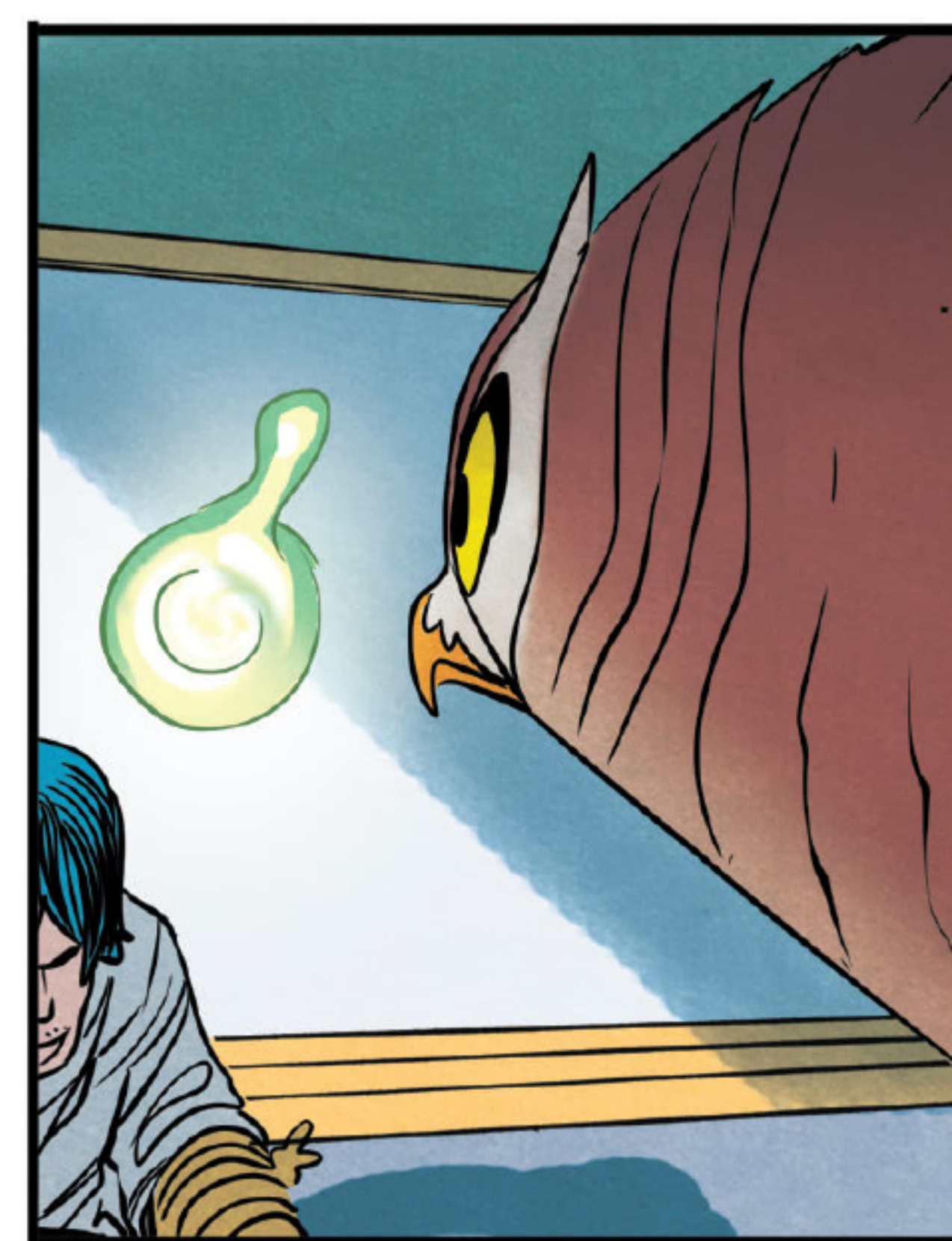
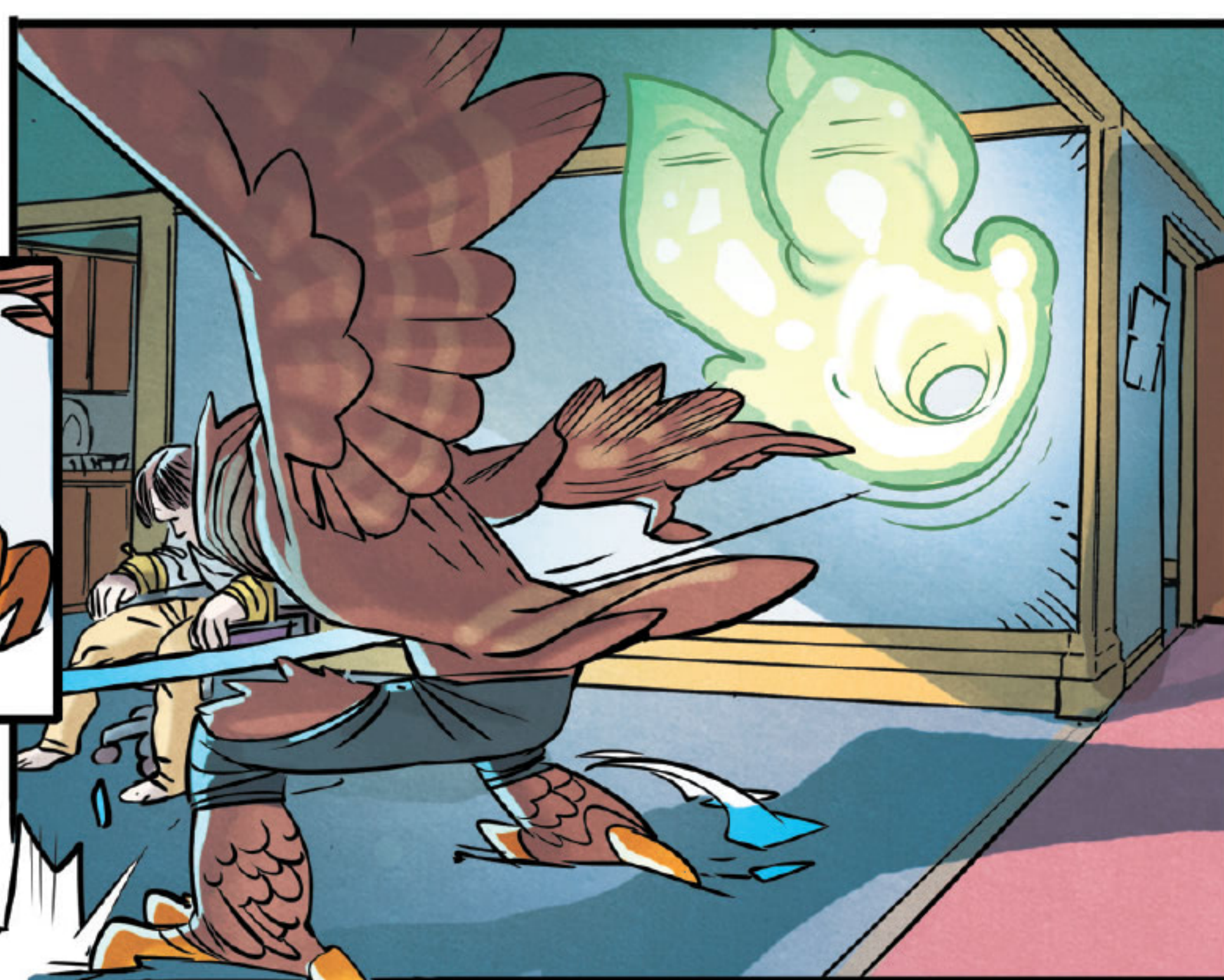
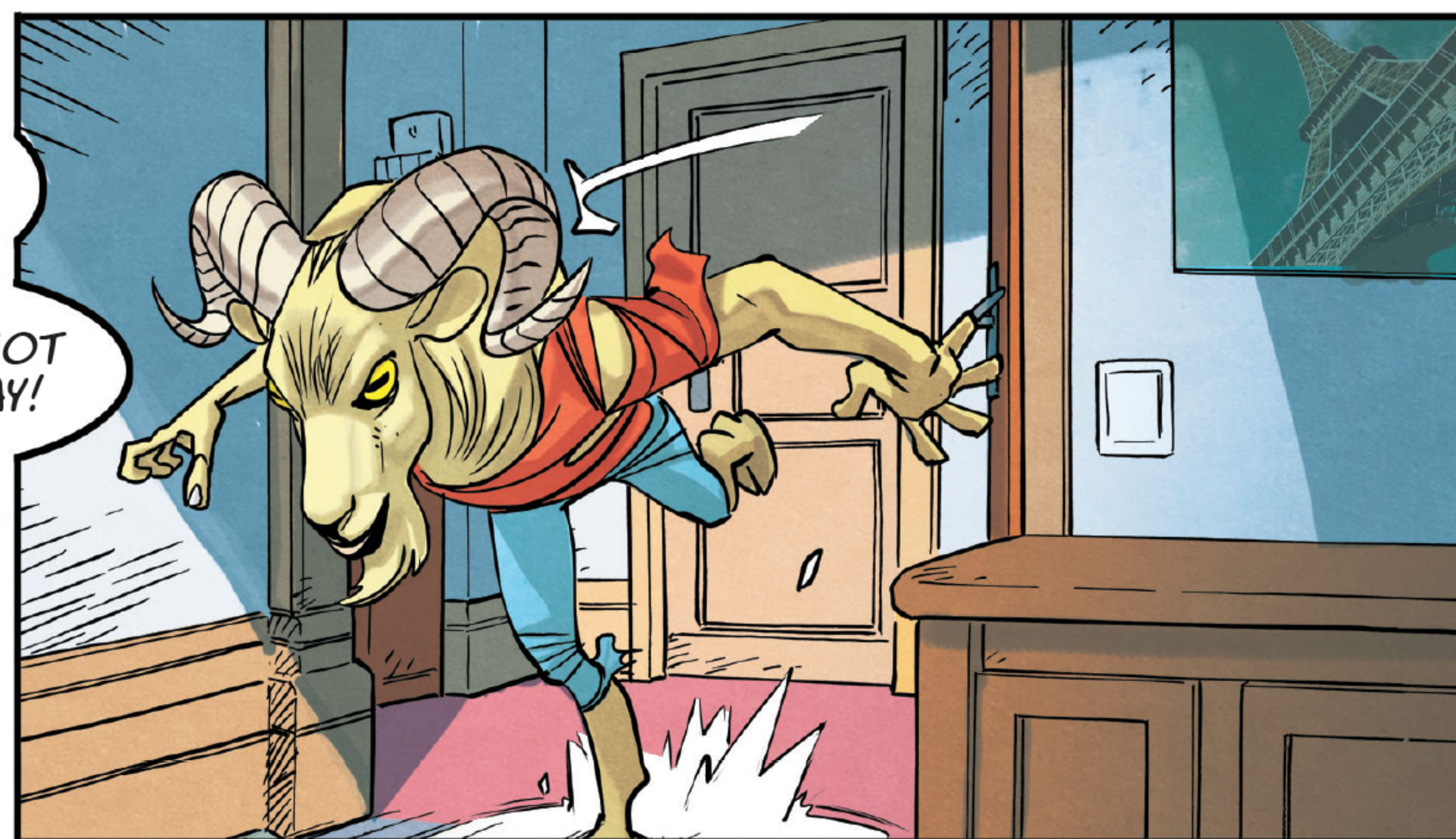
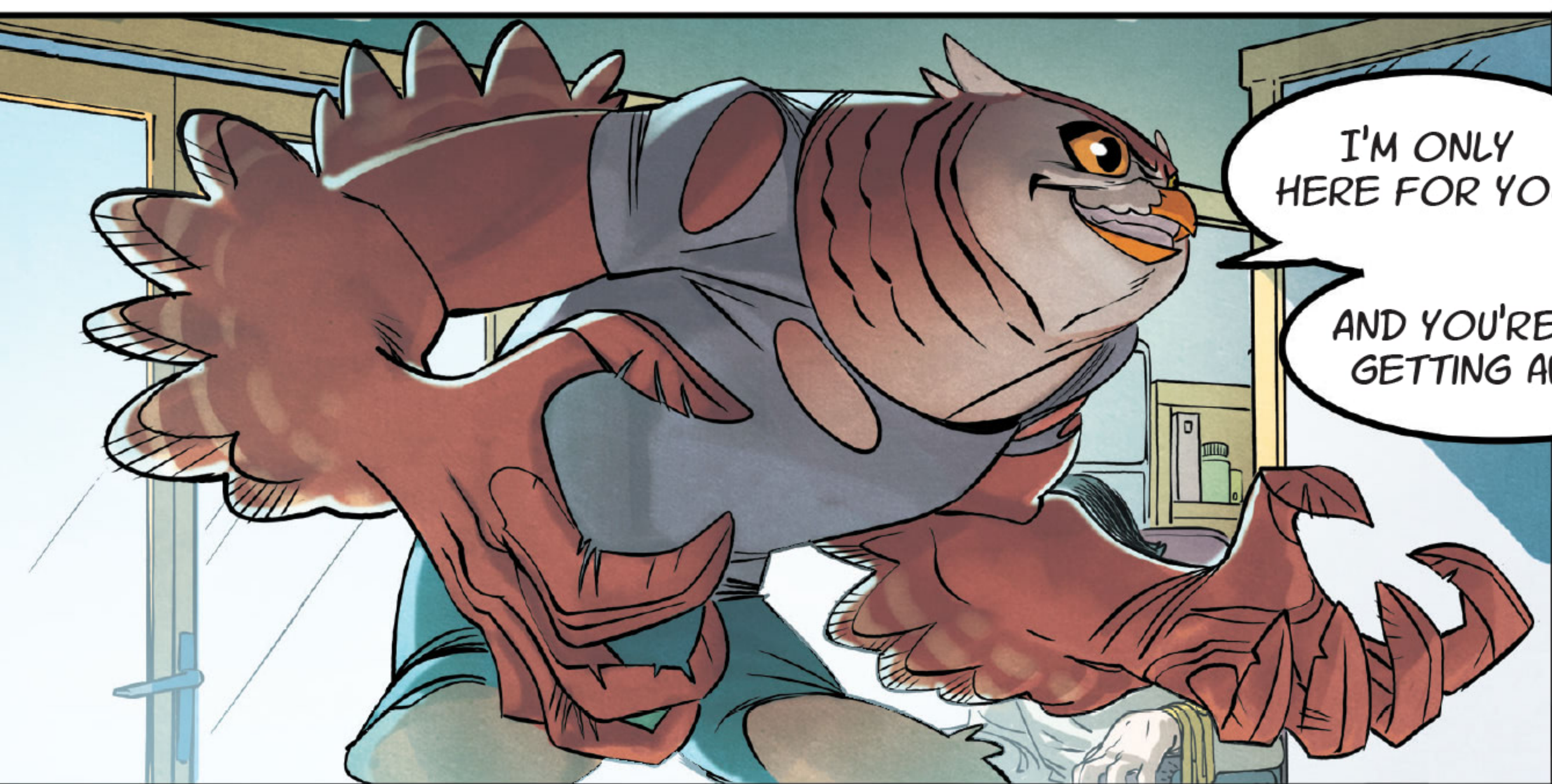
PouFi!

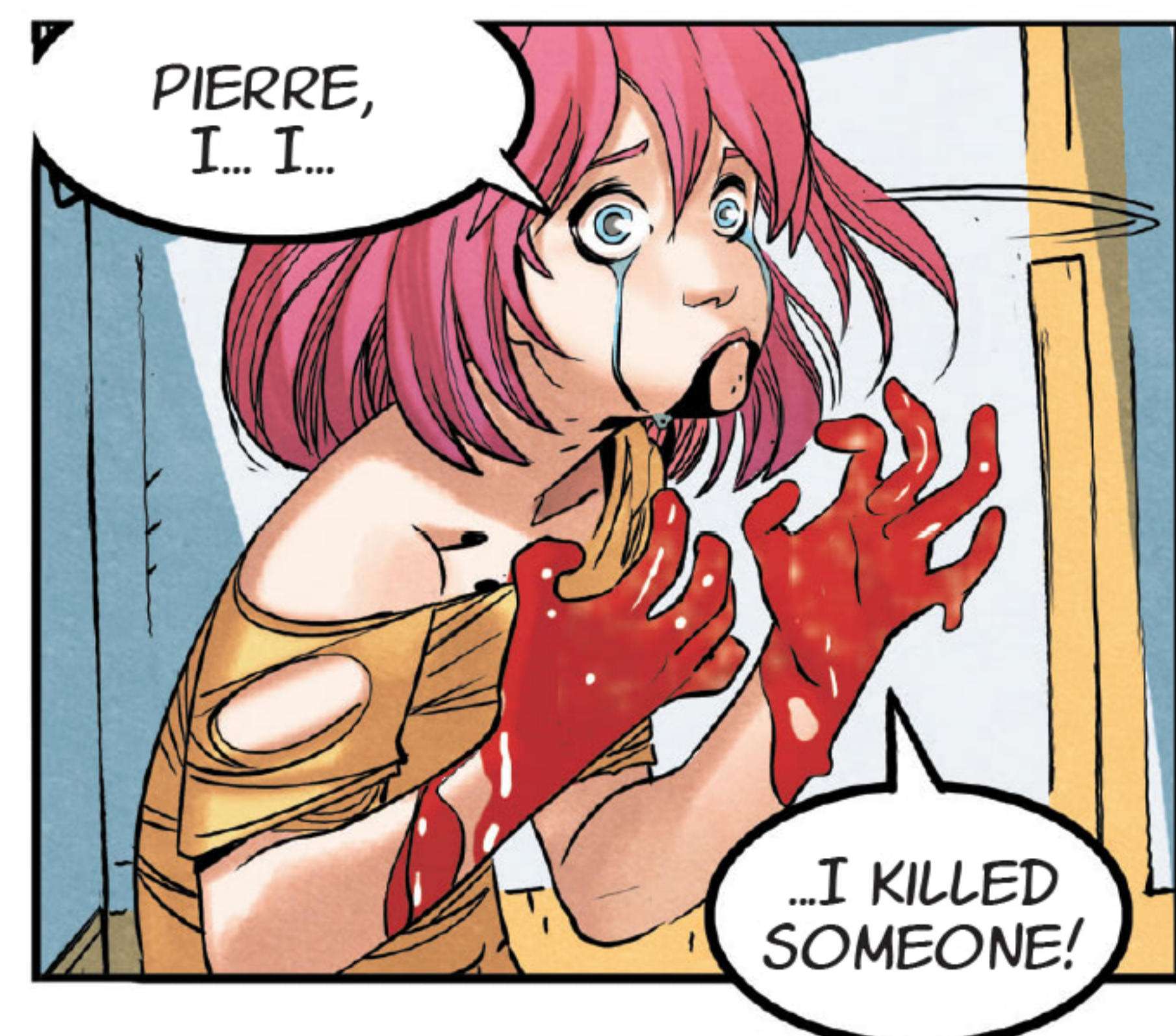
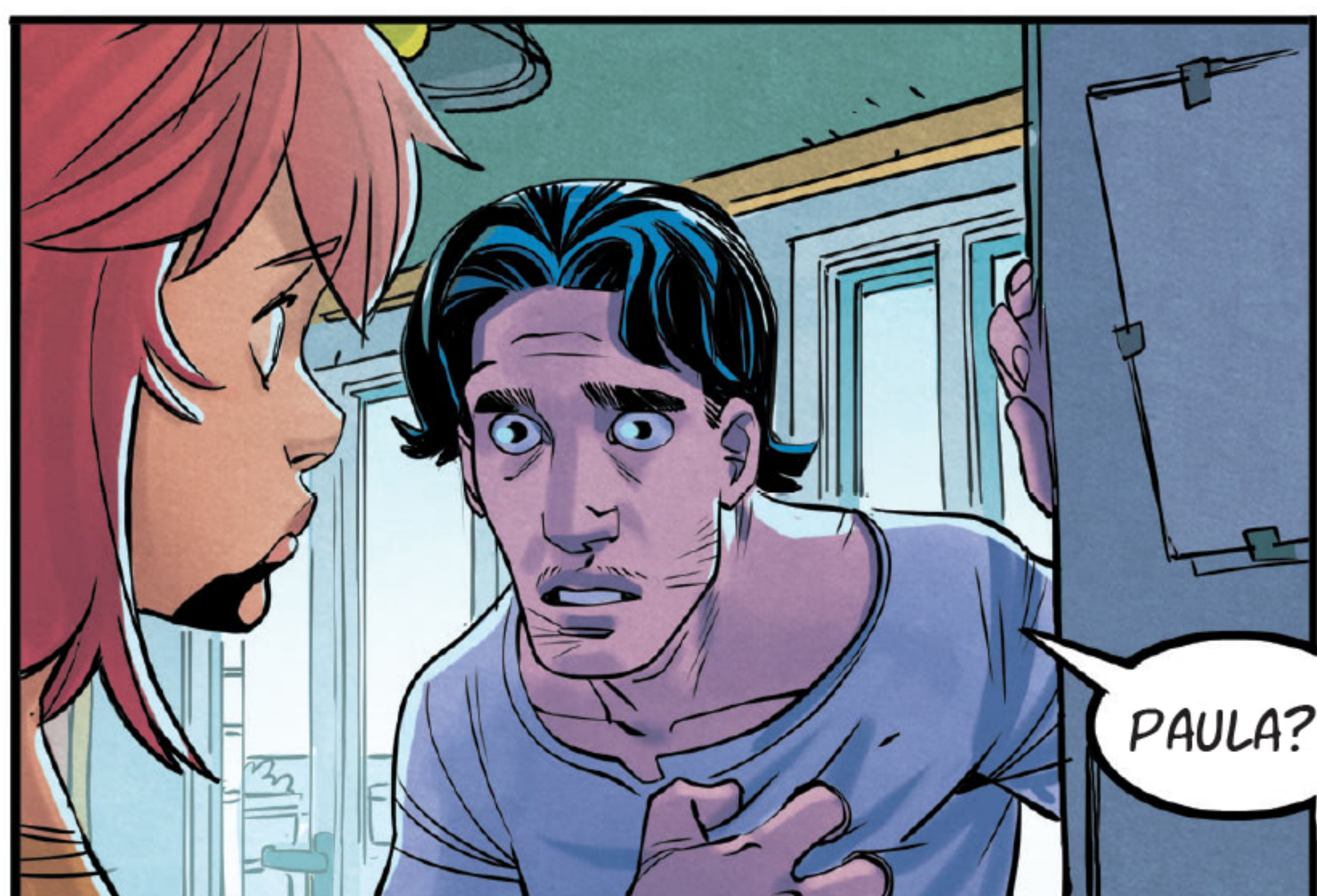
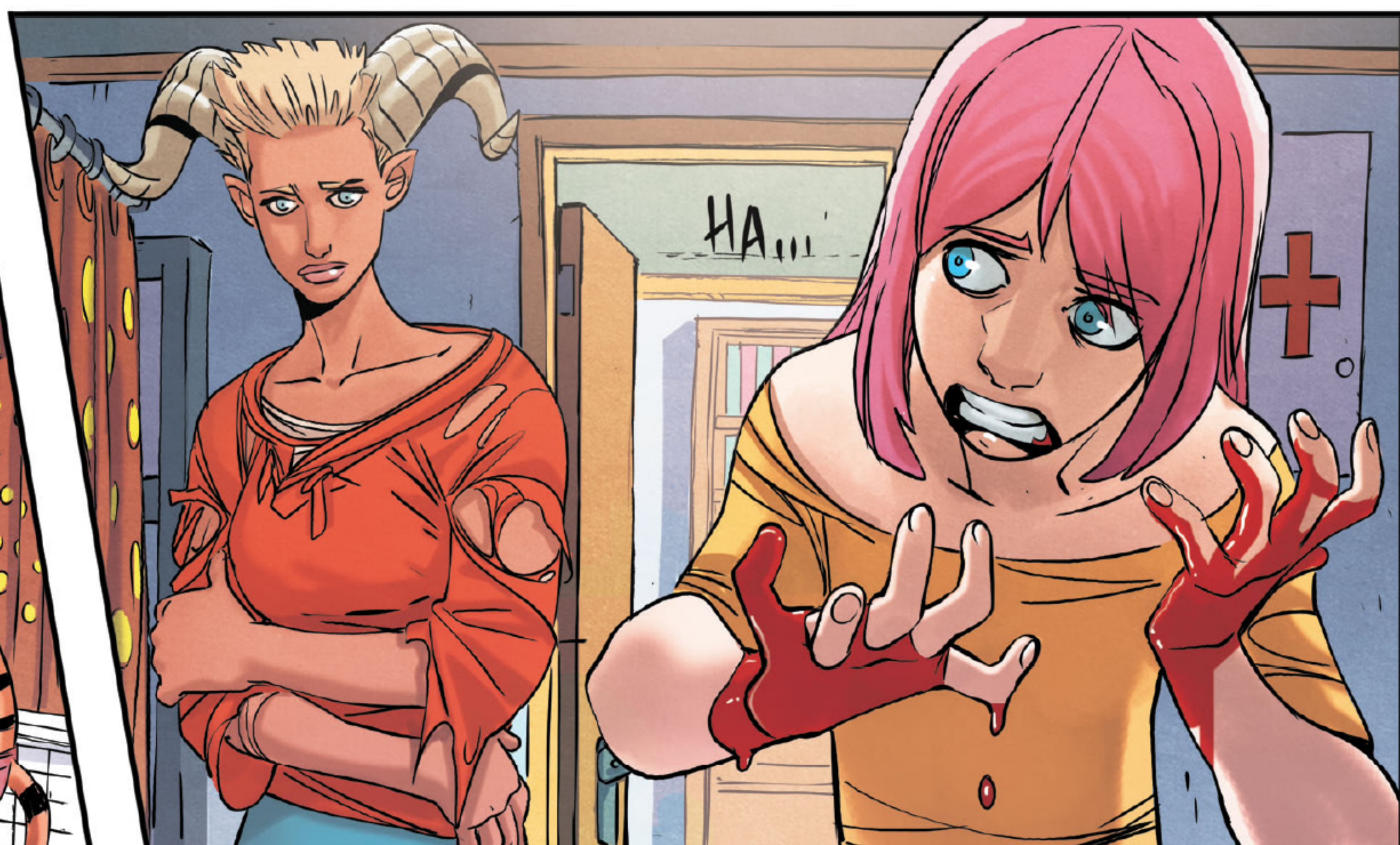
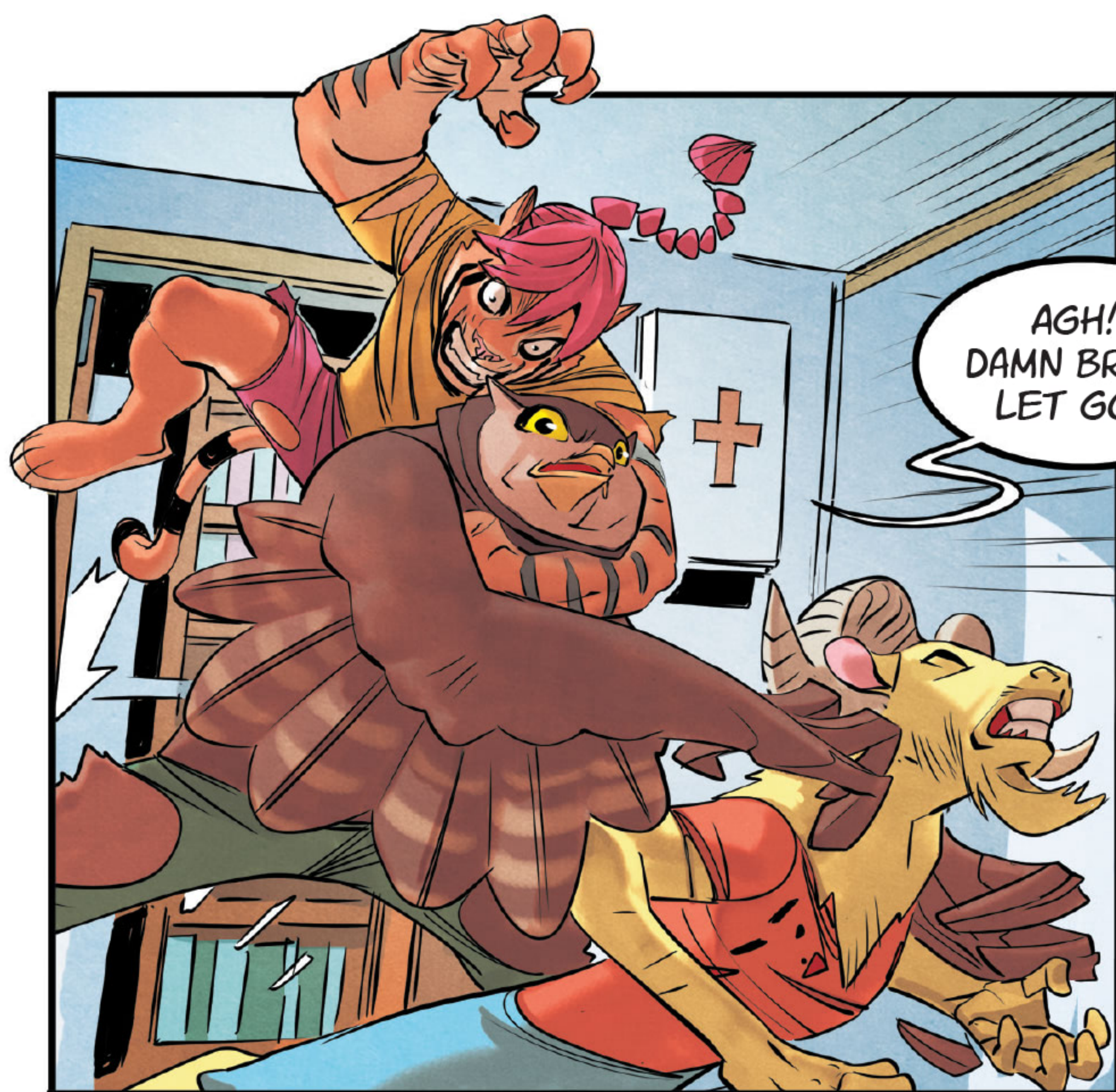


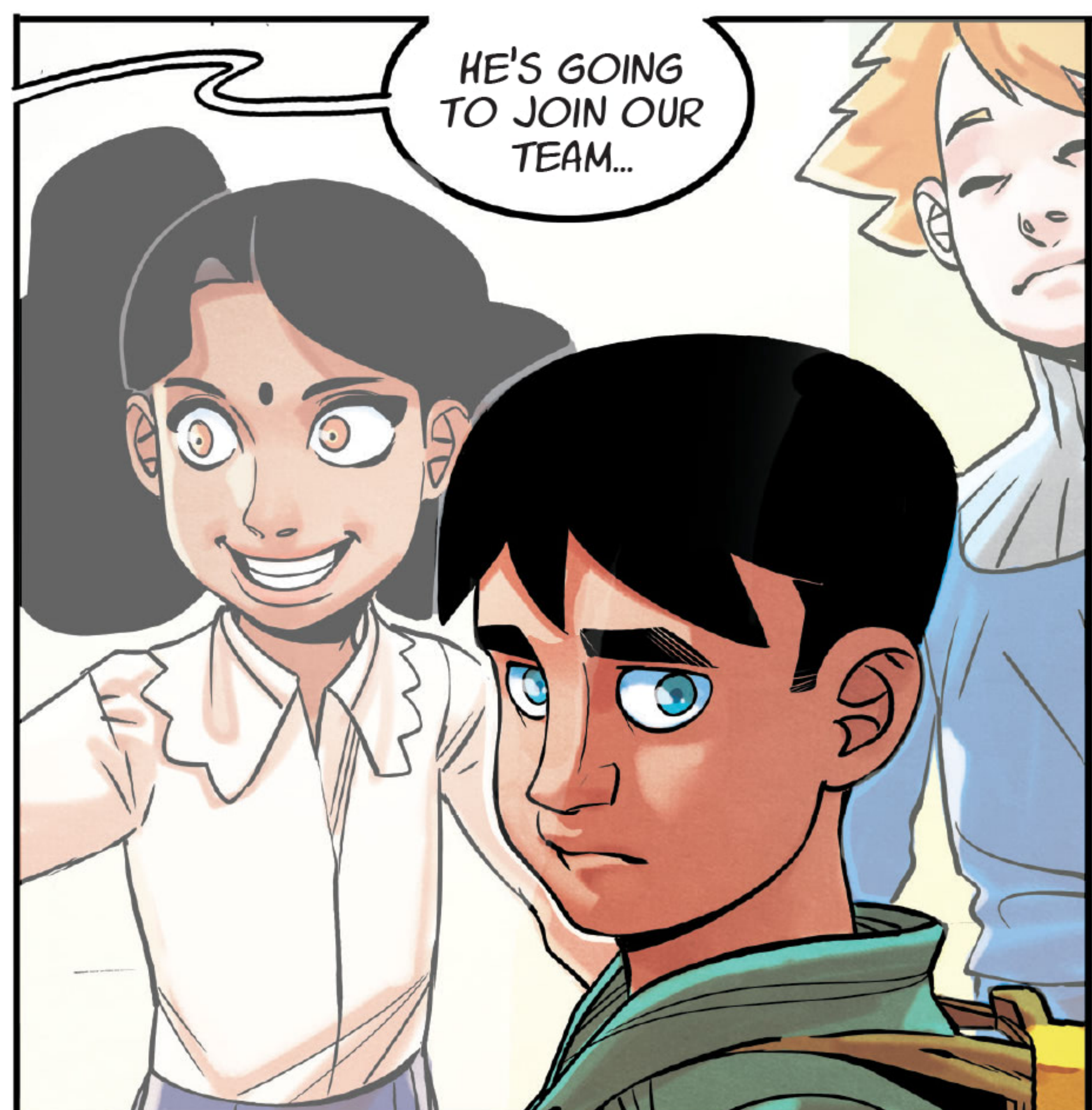
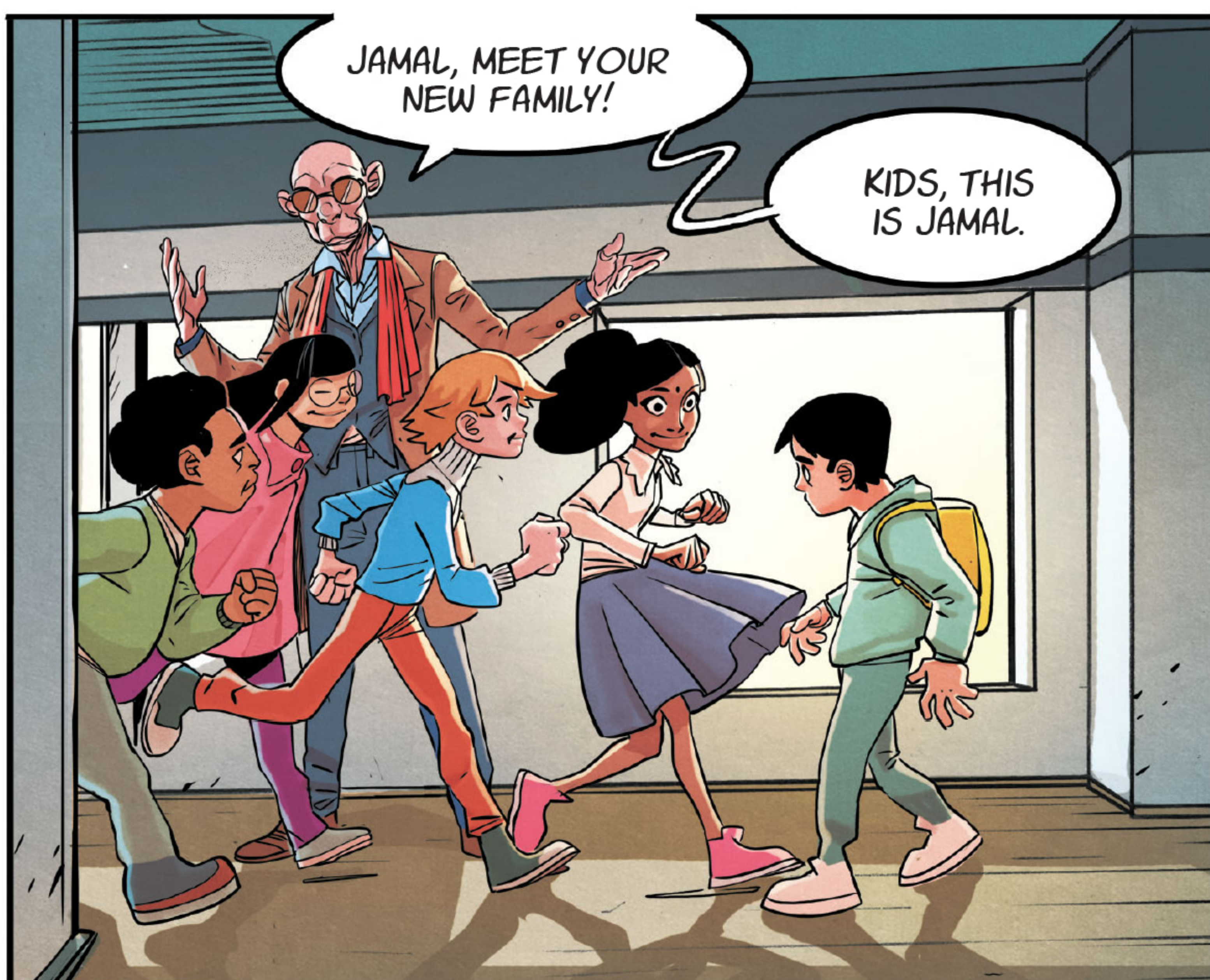
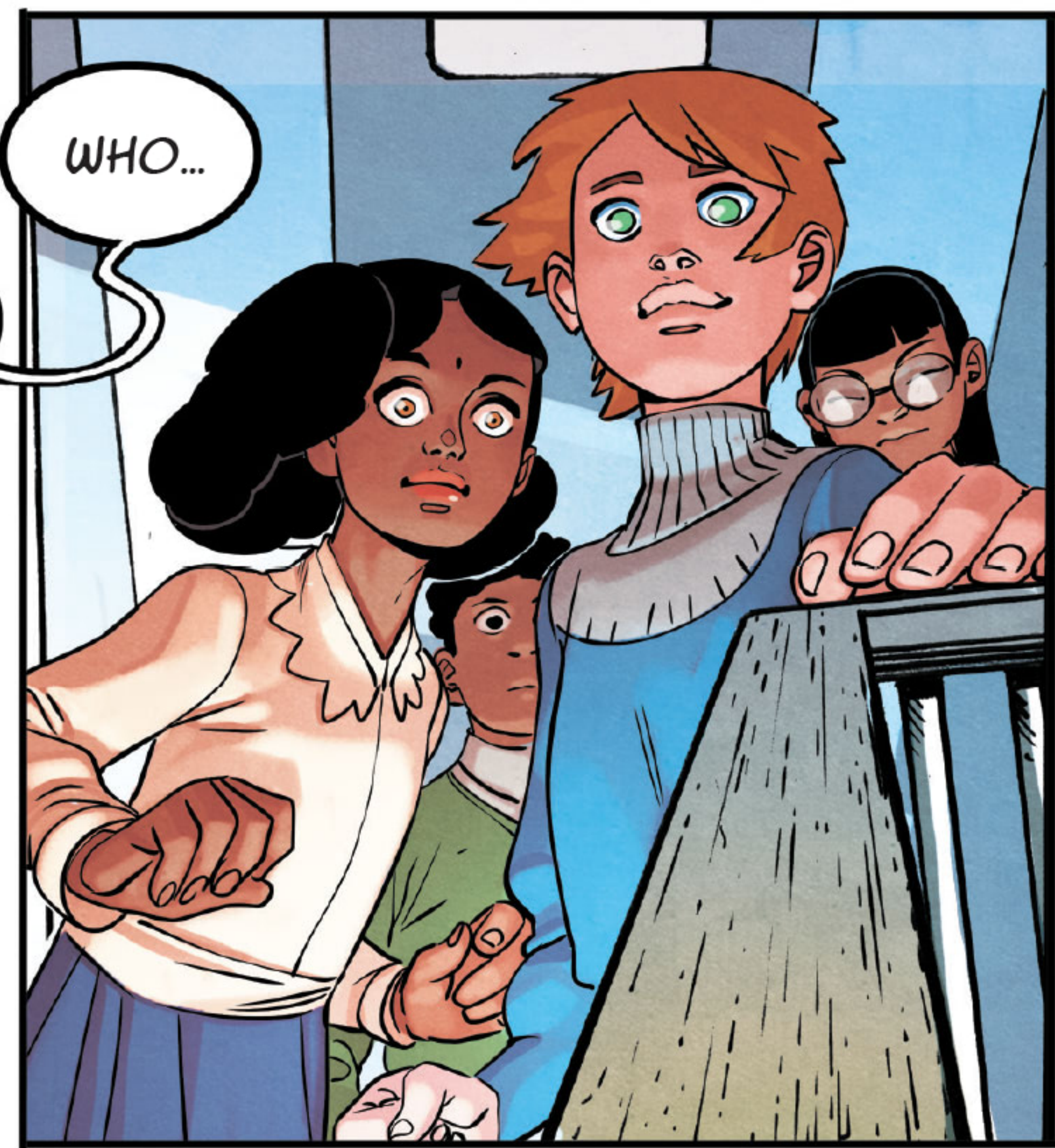
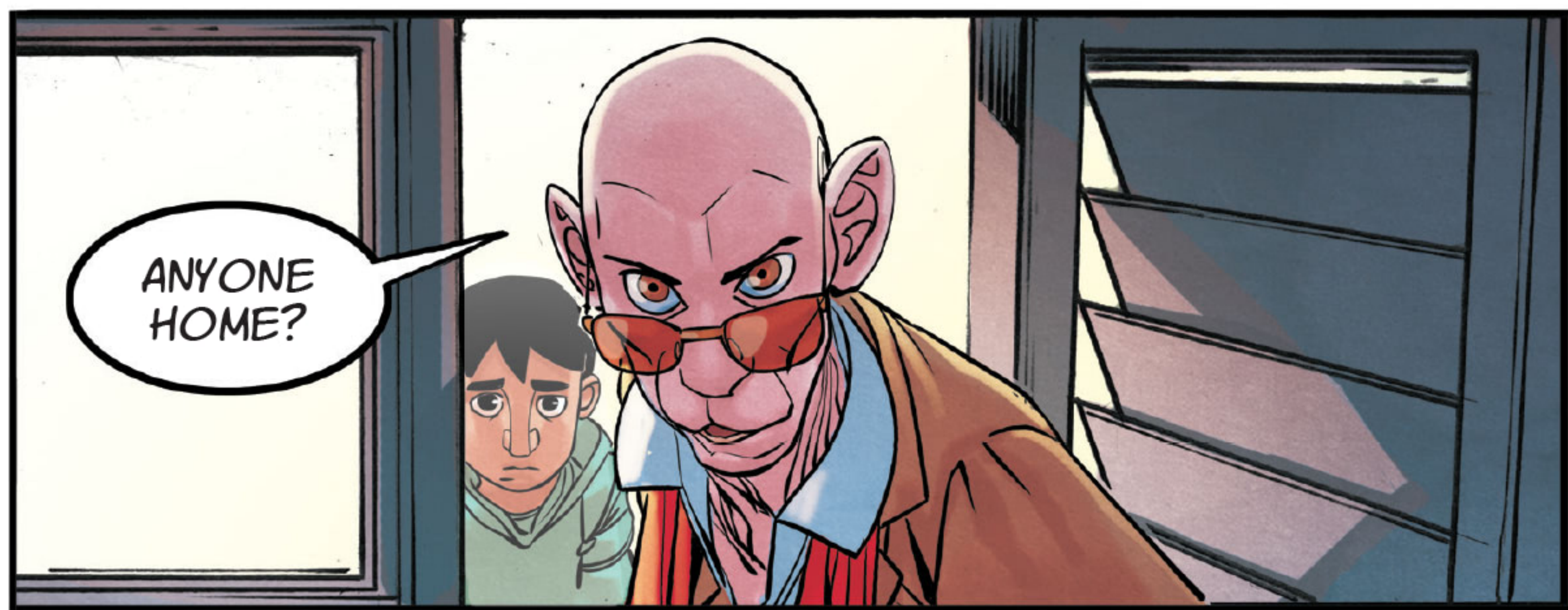
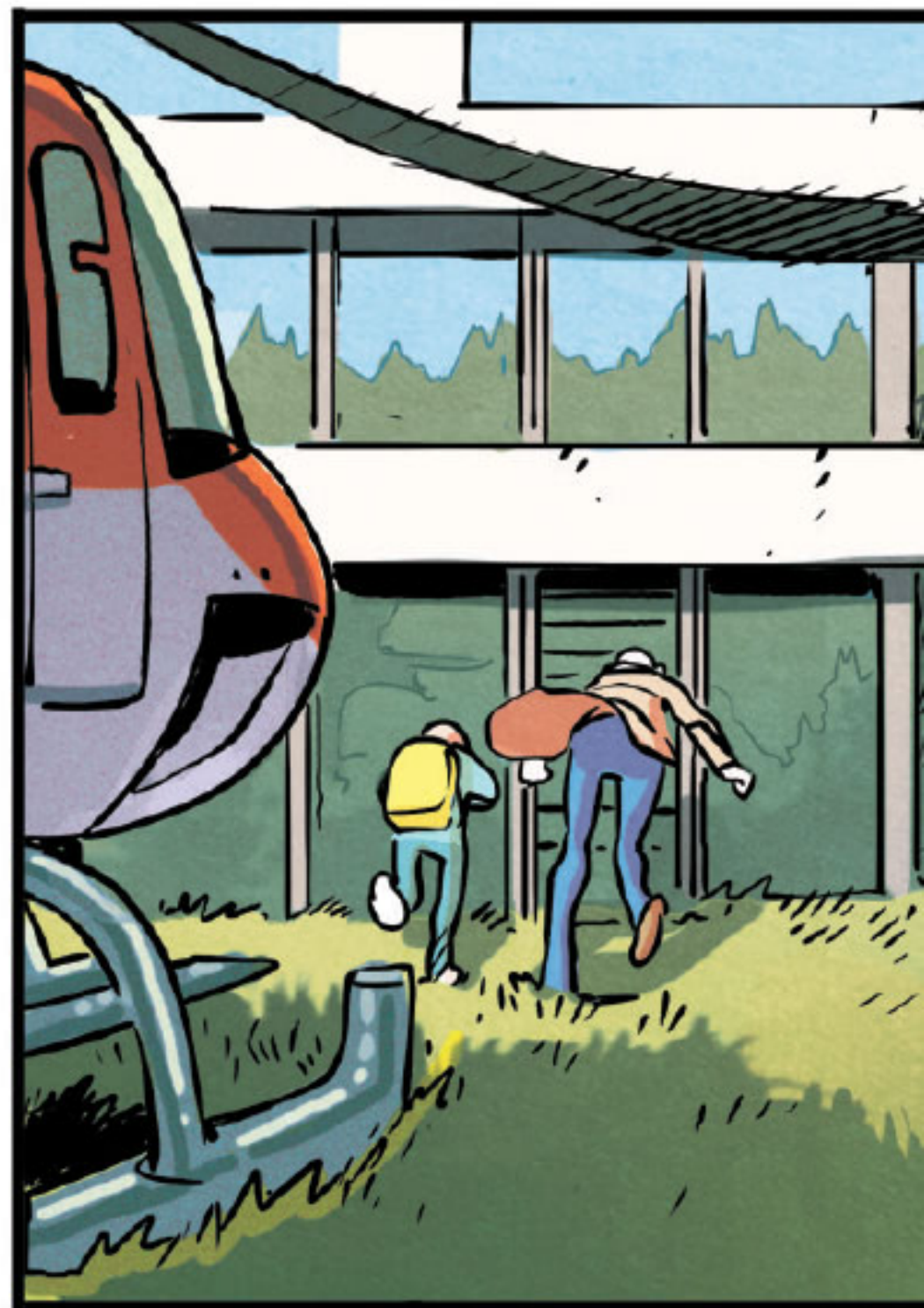
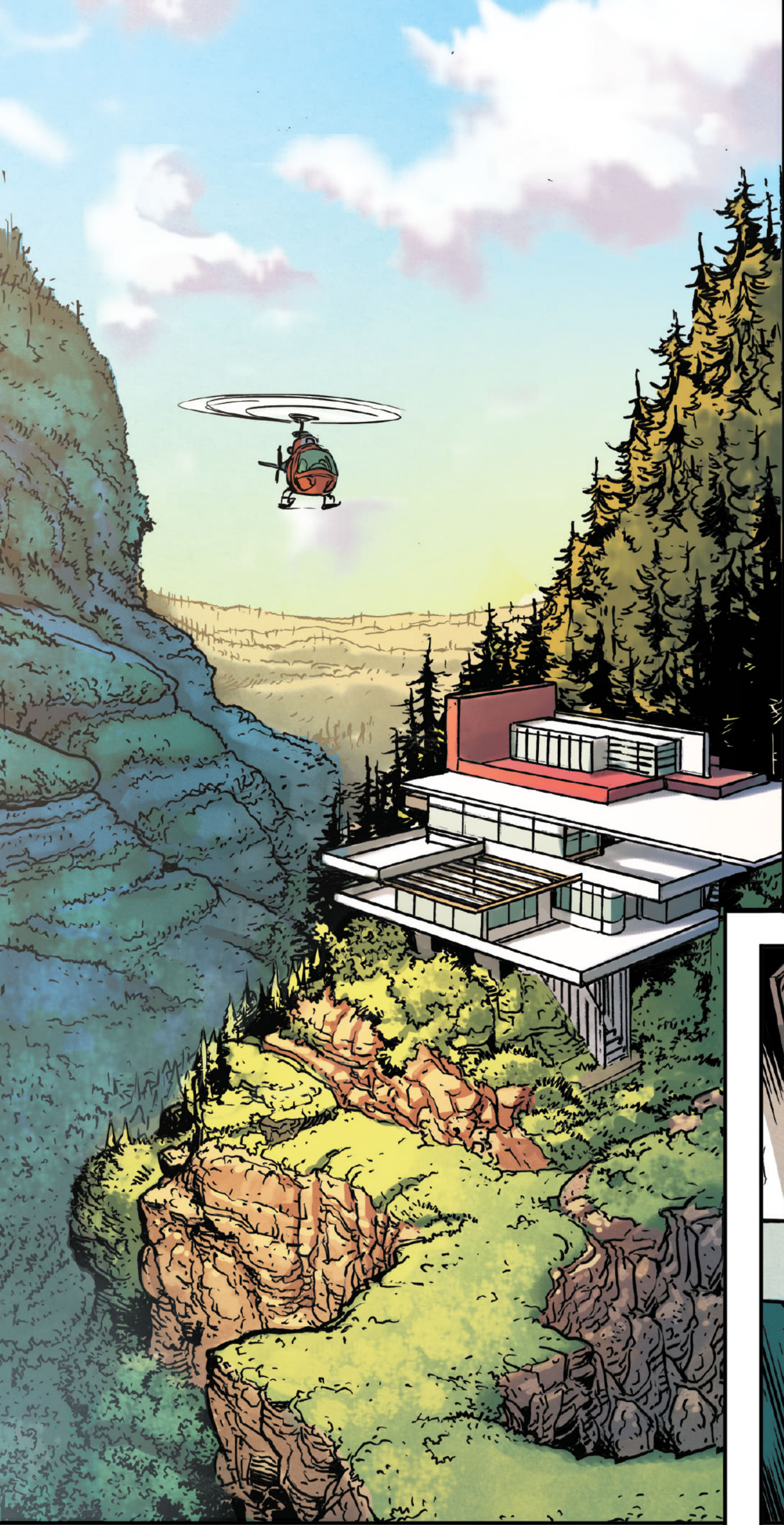
HE KNOWS THAT WITH THE PANDA'S
POWER, I CAN SEE HOW HE'LL DIE,
AND THEREFORE, HOW TO KILL HIM.





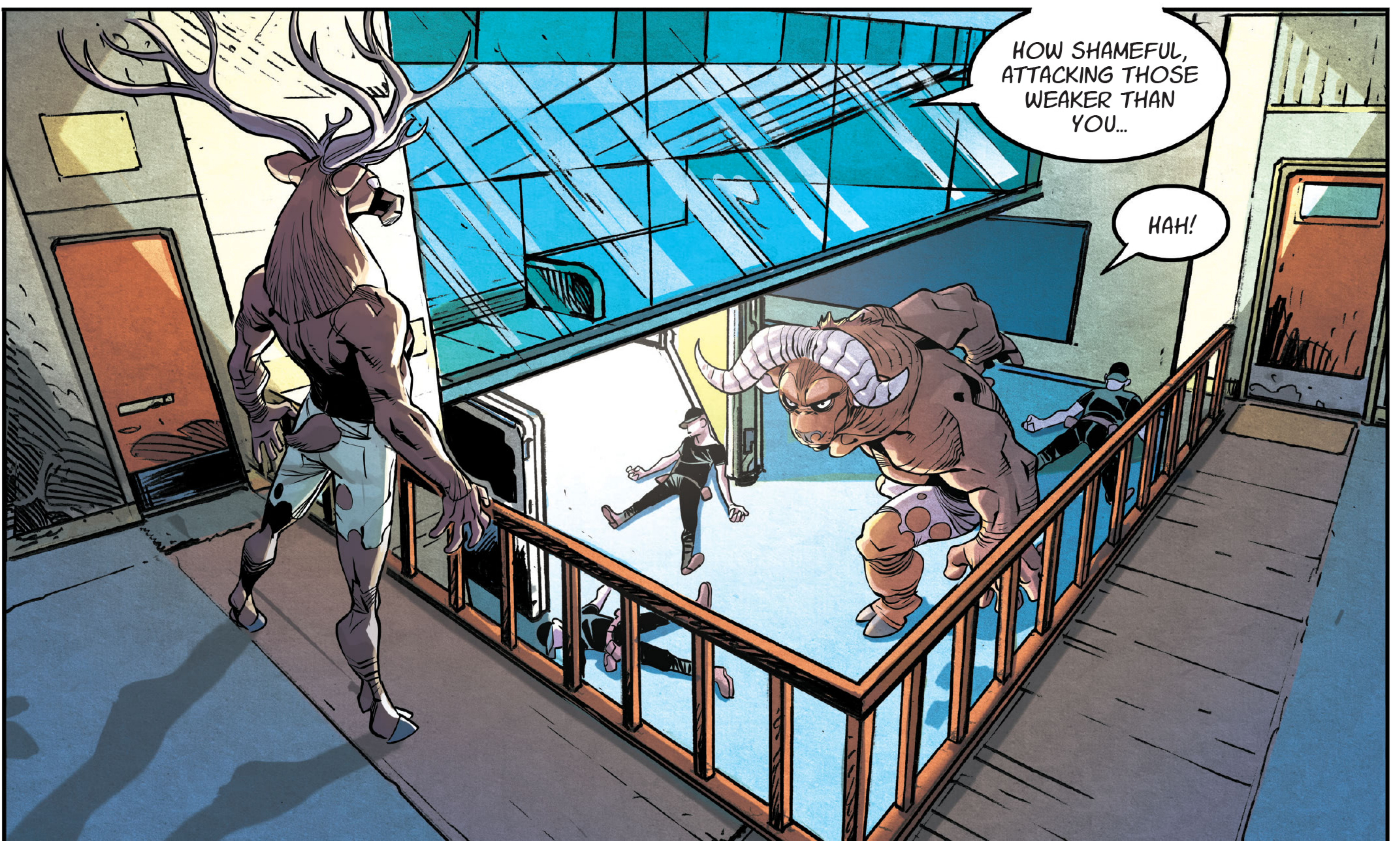
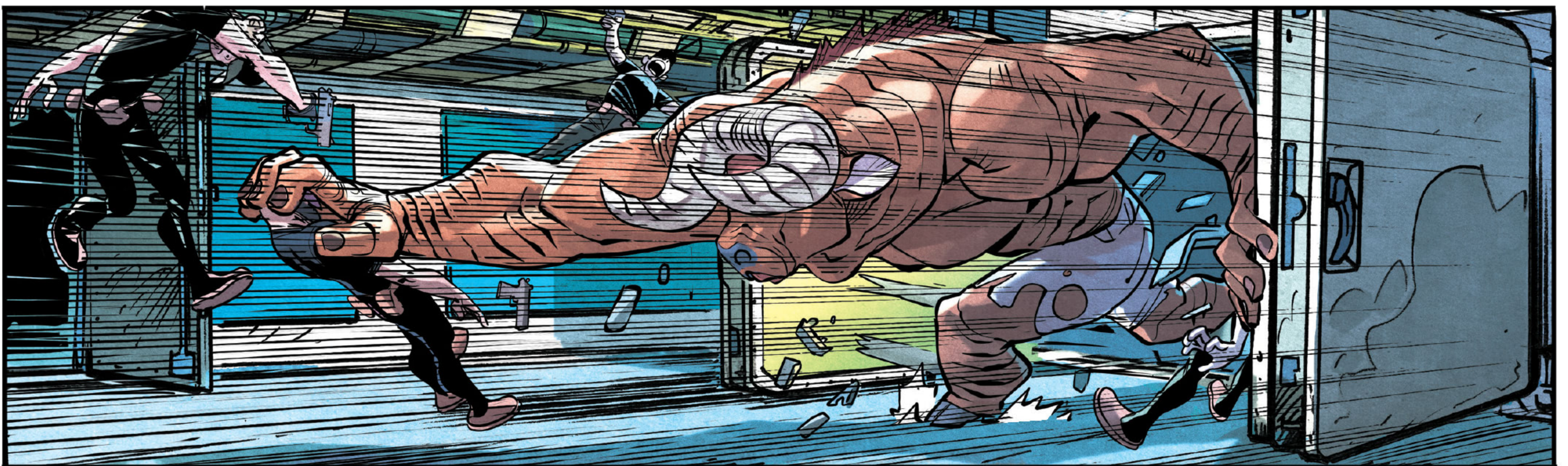


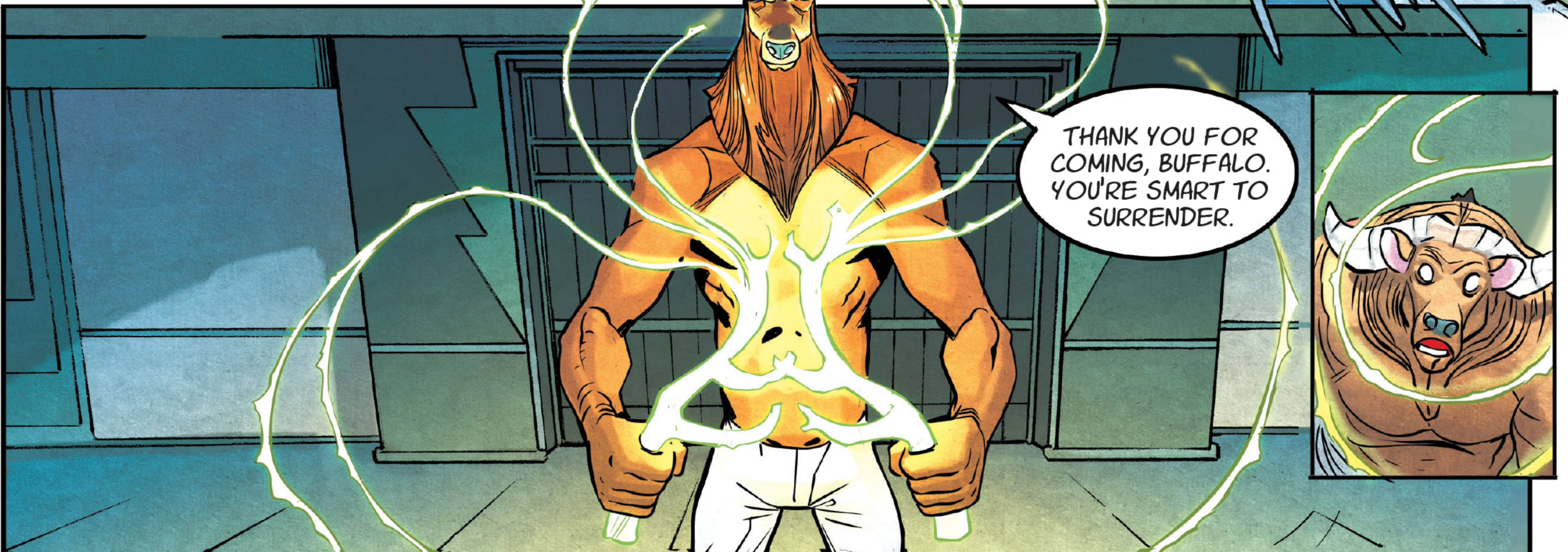
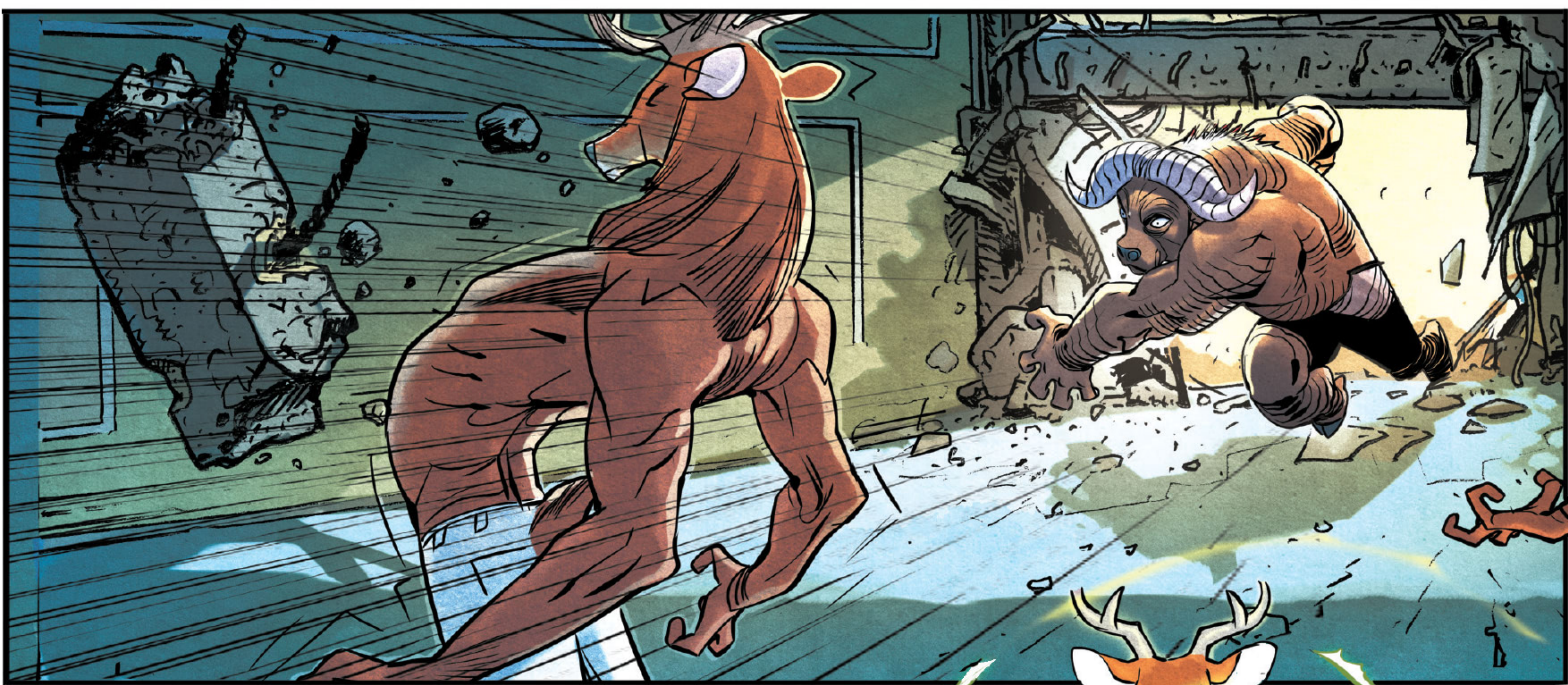
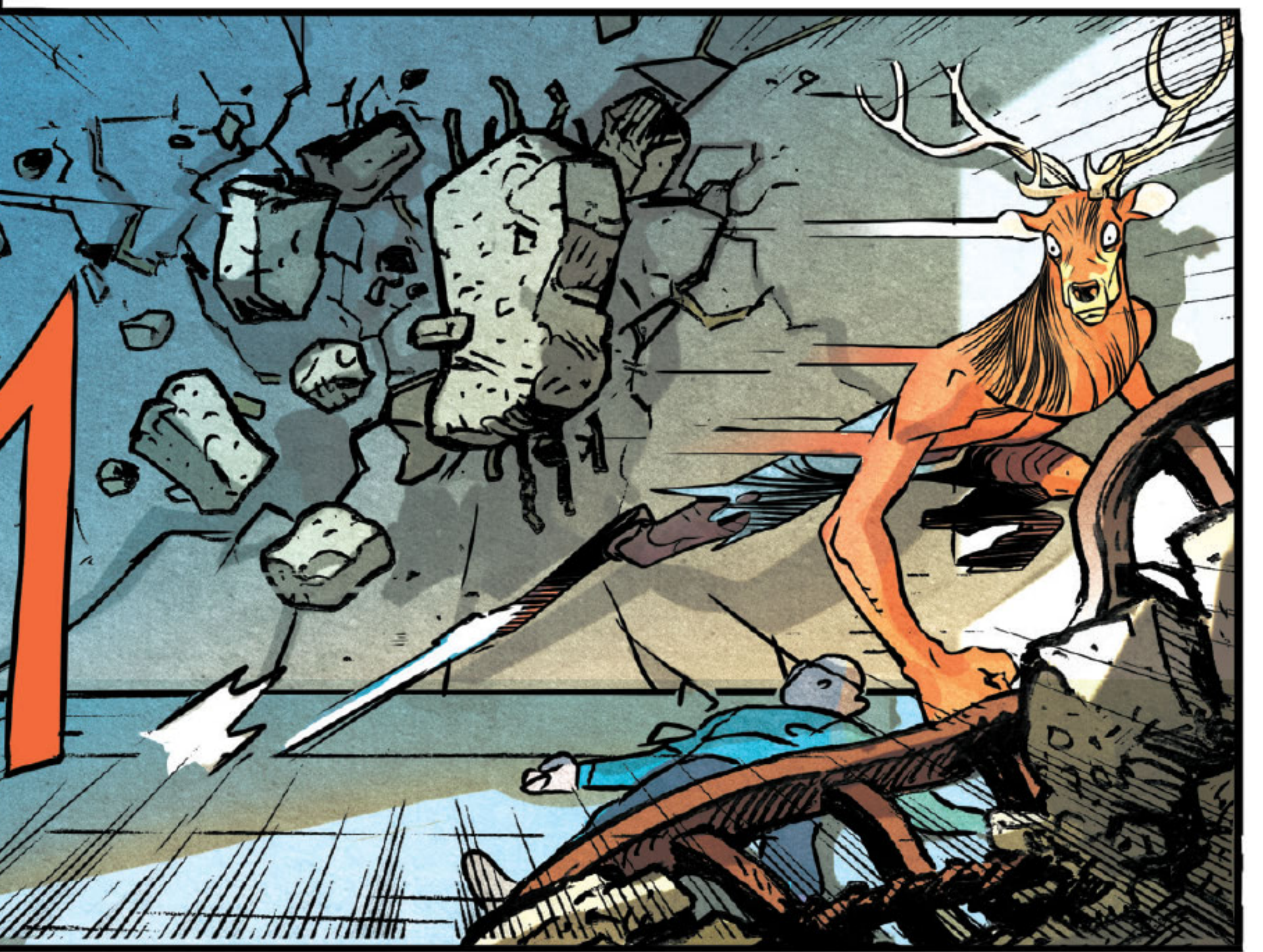






PART EIGHT:
COUNTERATTACK





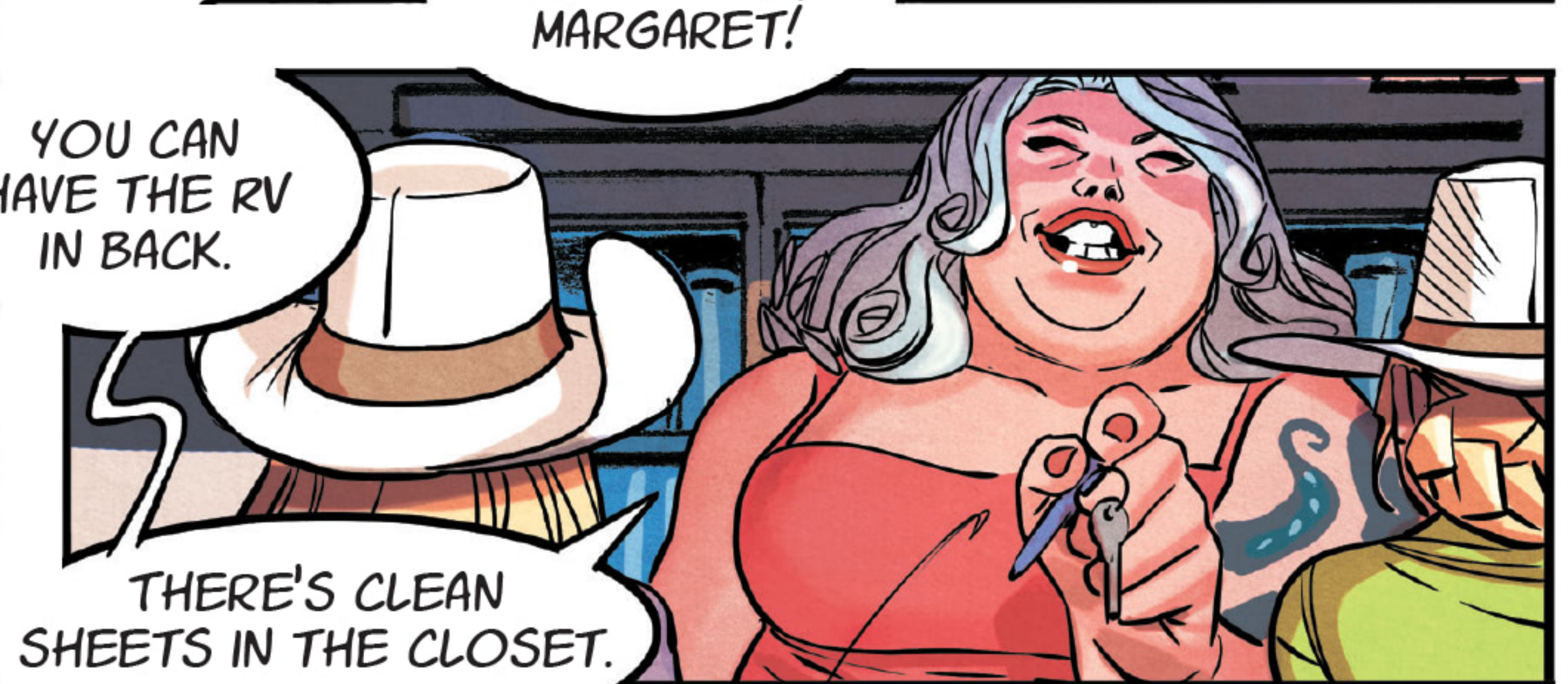


LISTEN, GIRLS.
I'M HAPPY YOU'RE STAYING,
BUT I CAN'T PAY YOU.



I CAN
OFFER
ROOM AND
BOARD, BUT
YOU GOTTA
KEEP IT
CLEAN.

THANK YOU,
MARGARET!

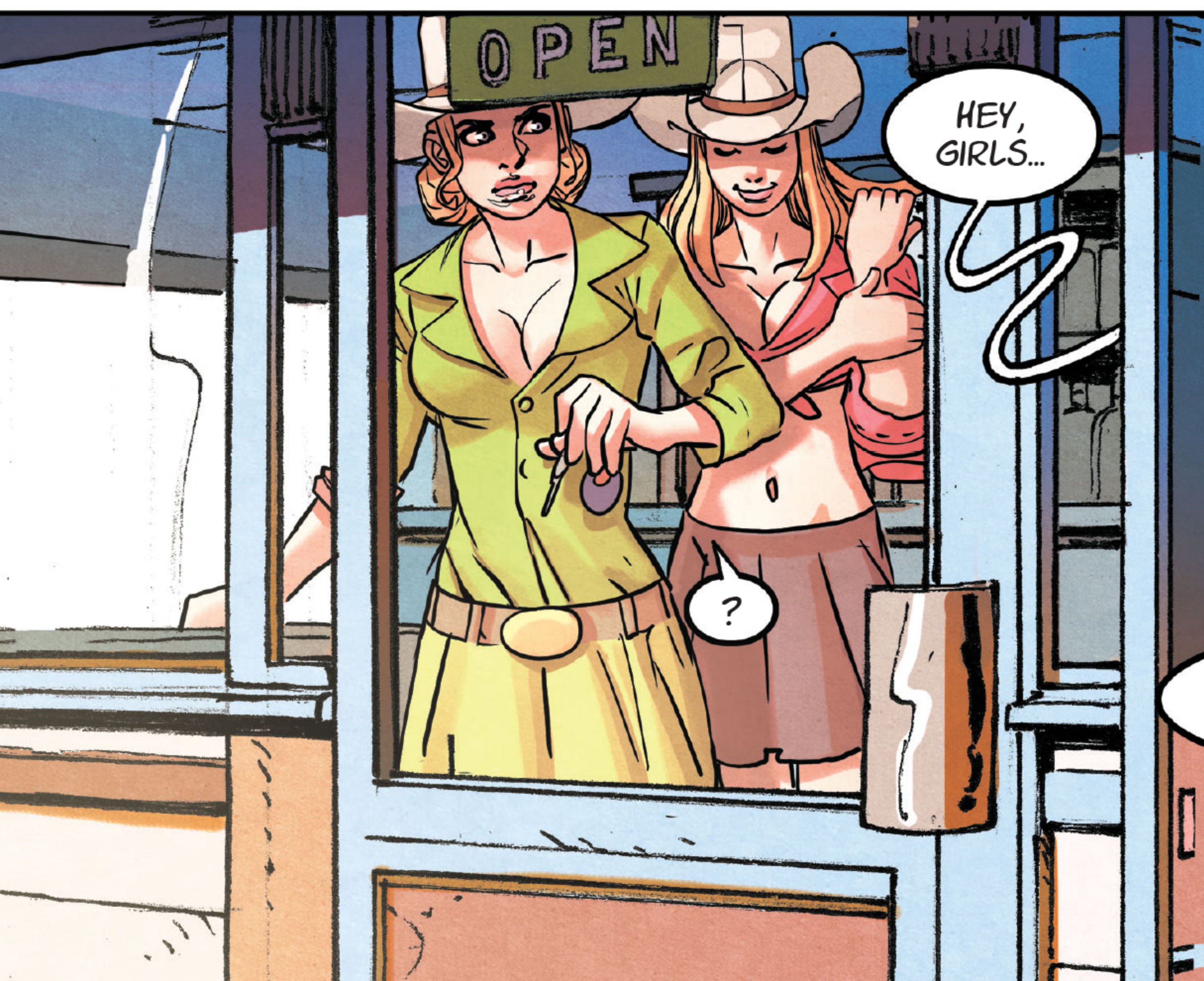


YOU CAN
HAVE THE RV
IN BACK.

THERE'S CLEAN
SHEETS IN THE CLOSET.

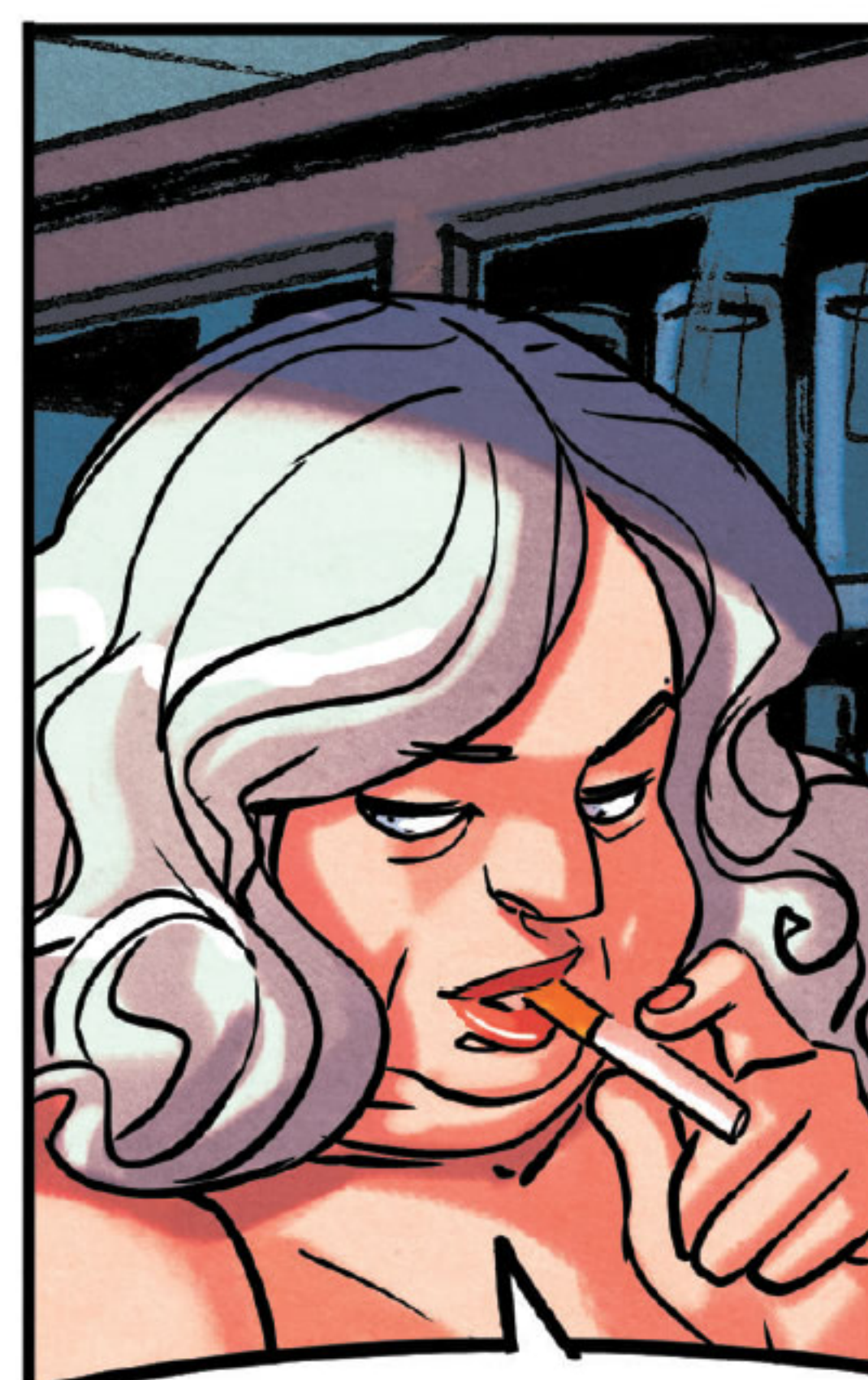


WE'LL MAKE IT THE
COOLEST PLACE IN
THE DESERT!



HEY,
GIRLS...

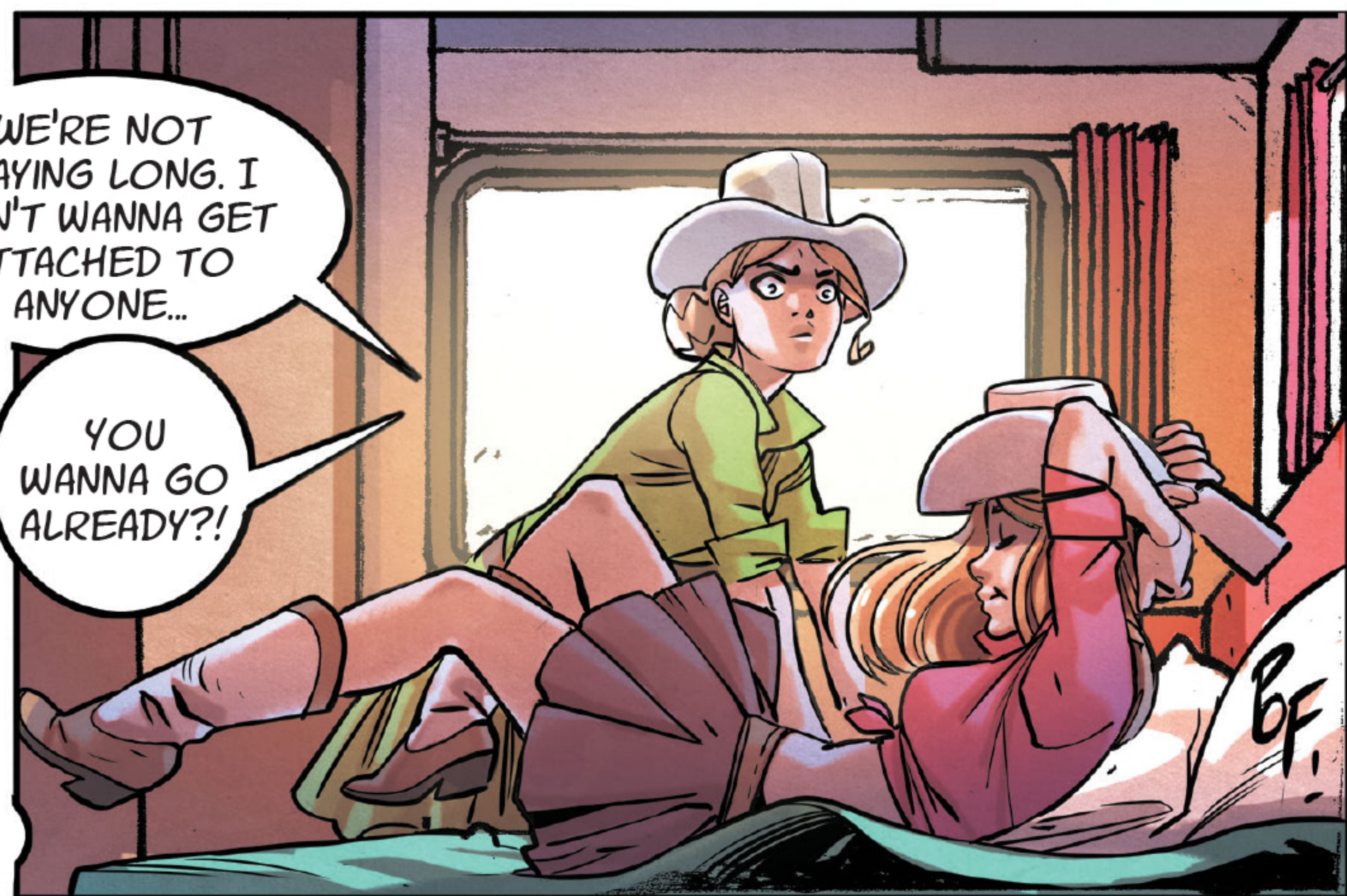
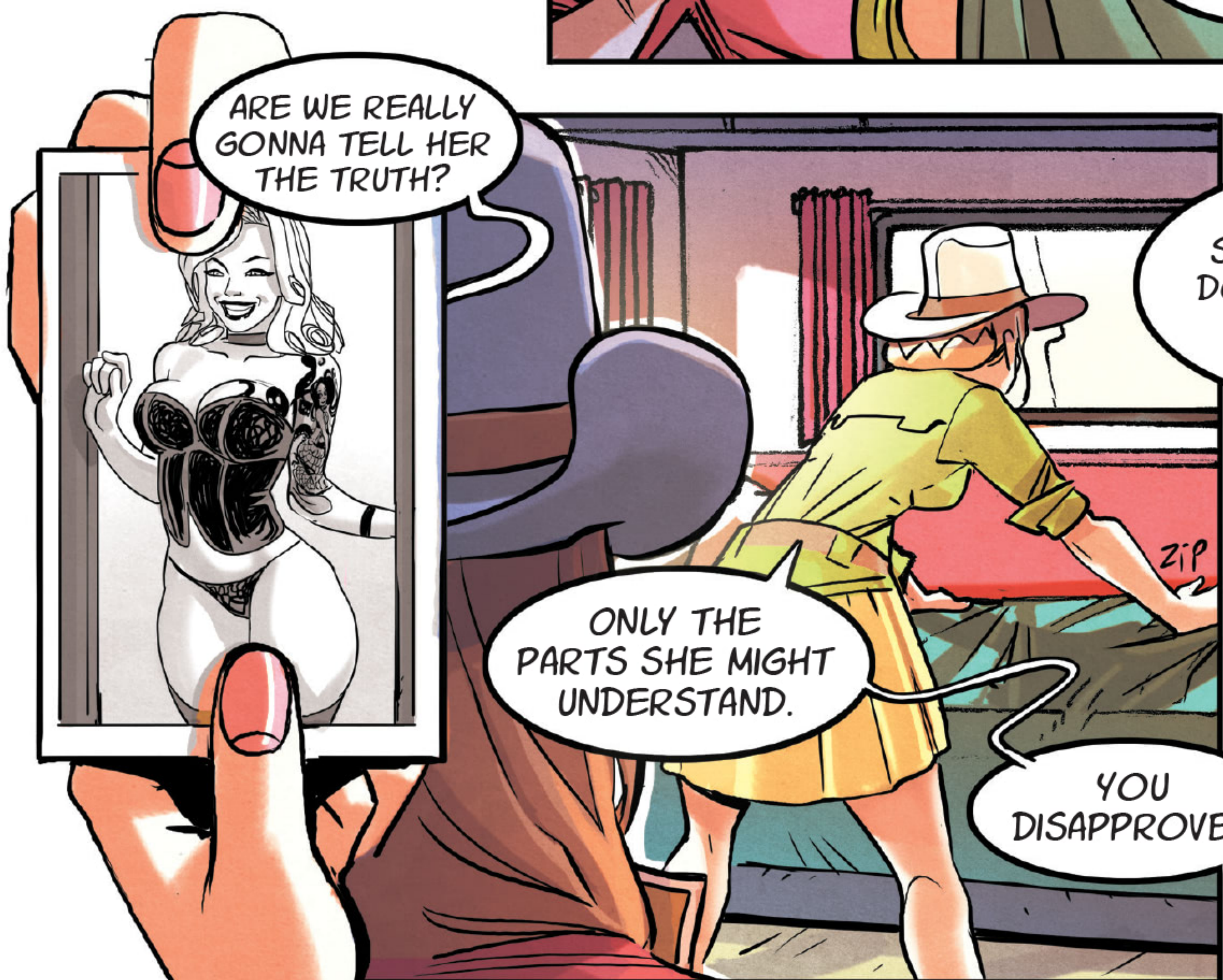
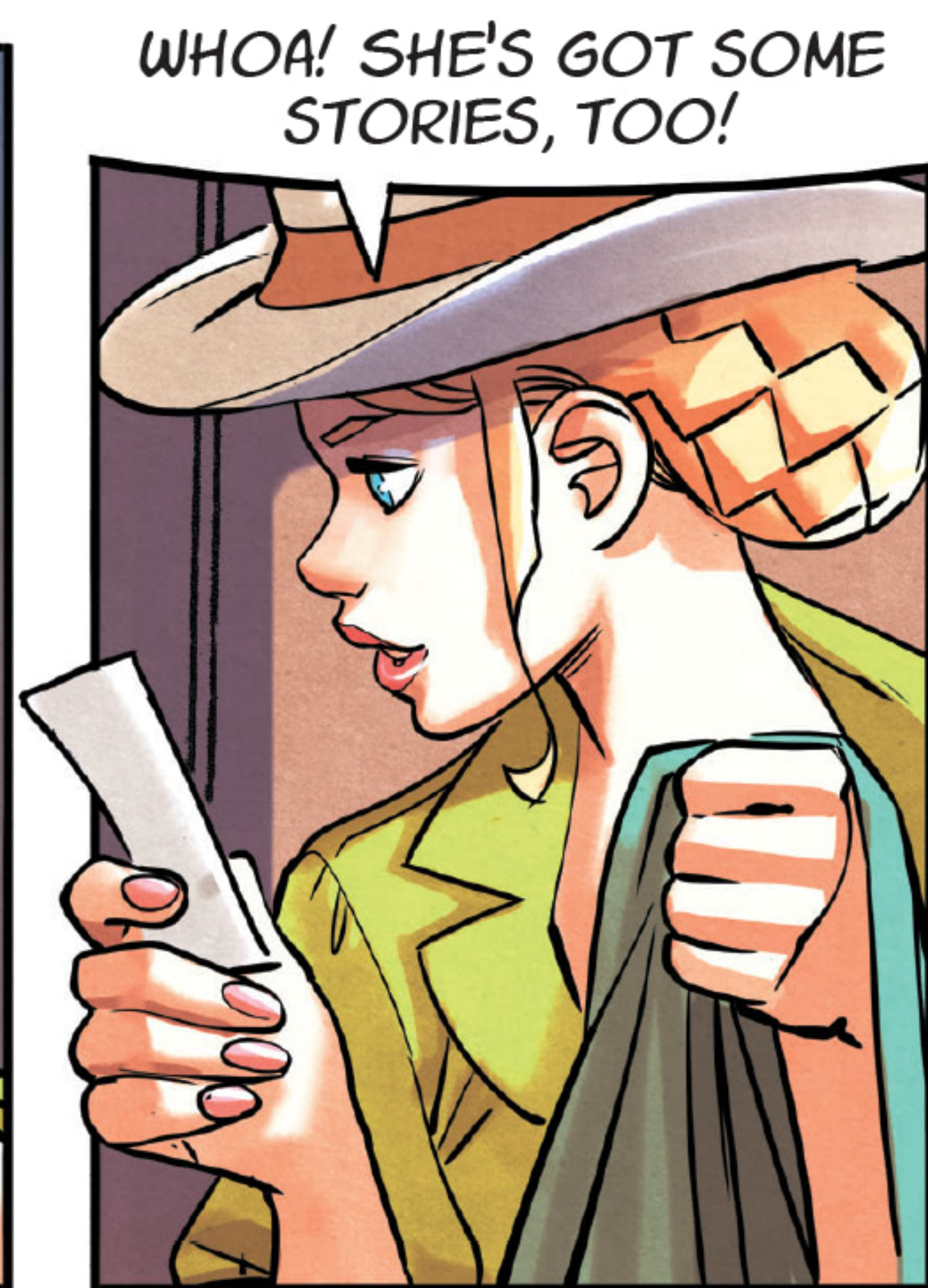
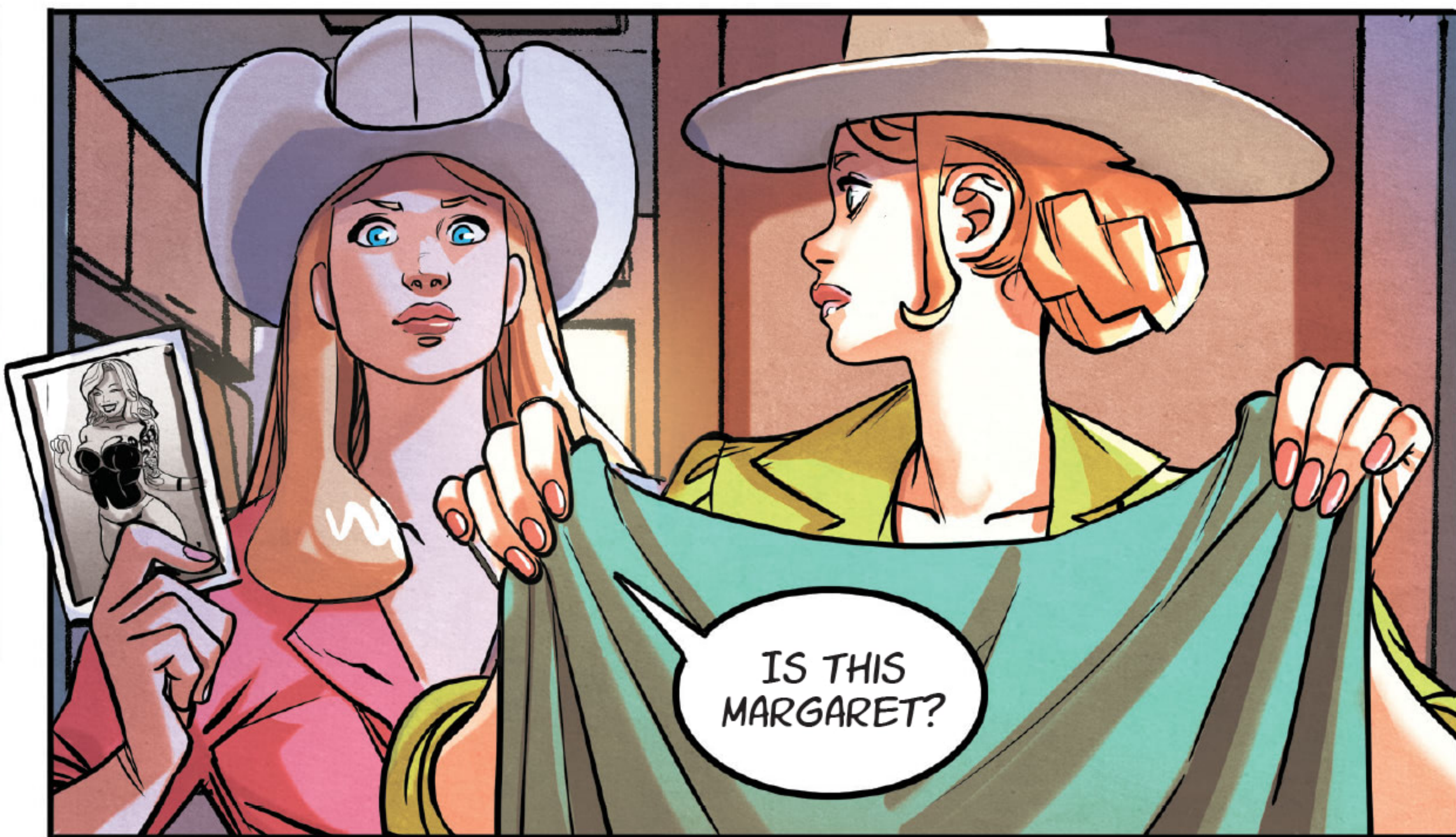
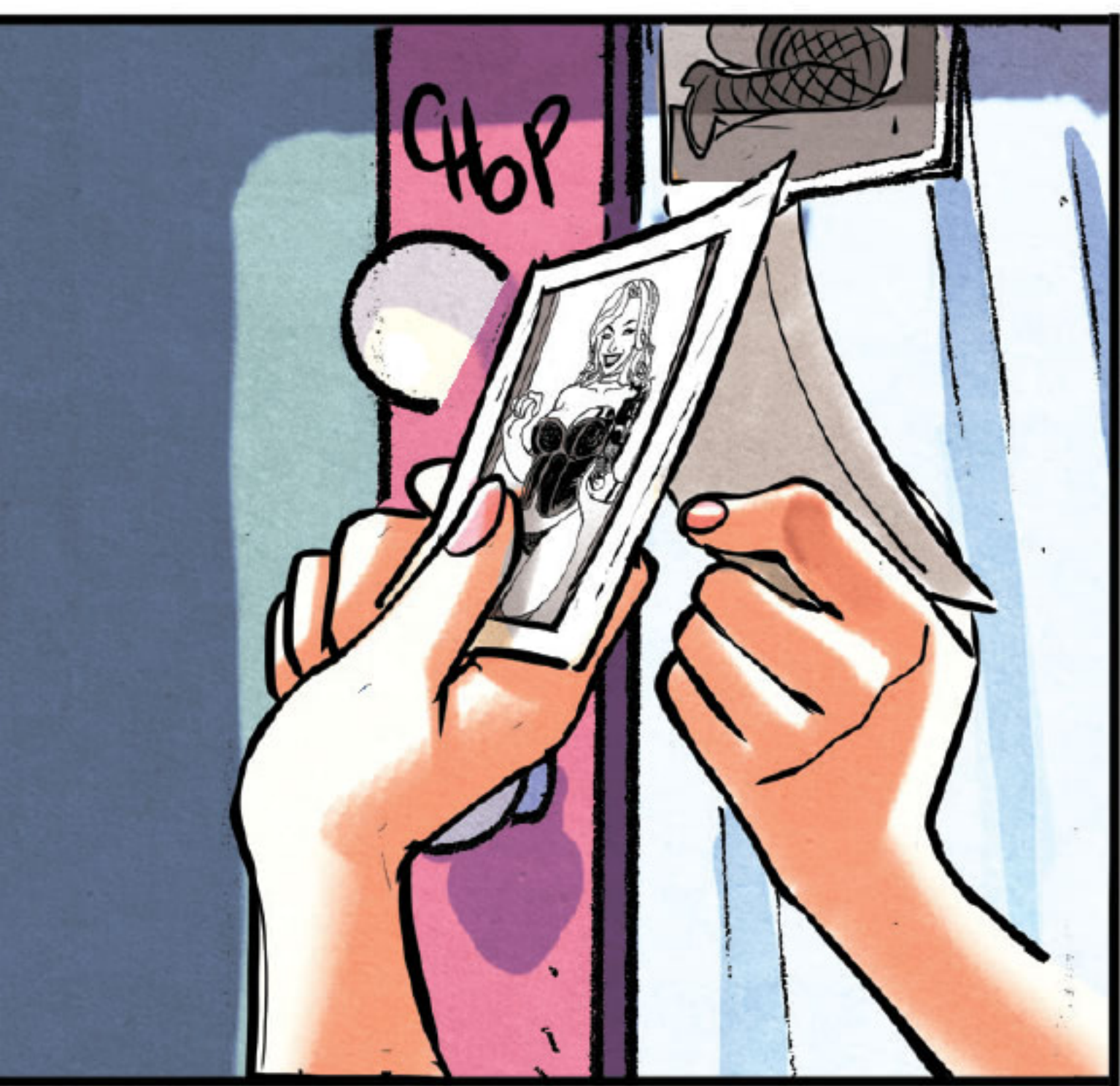
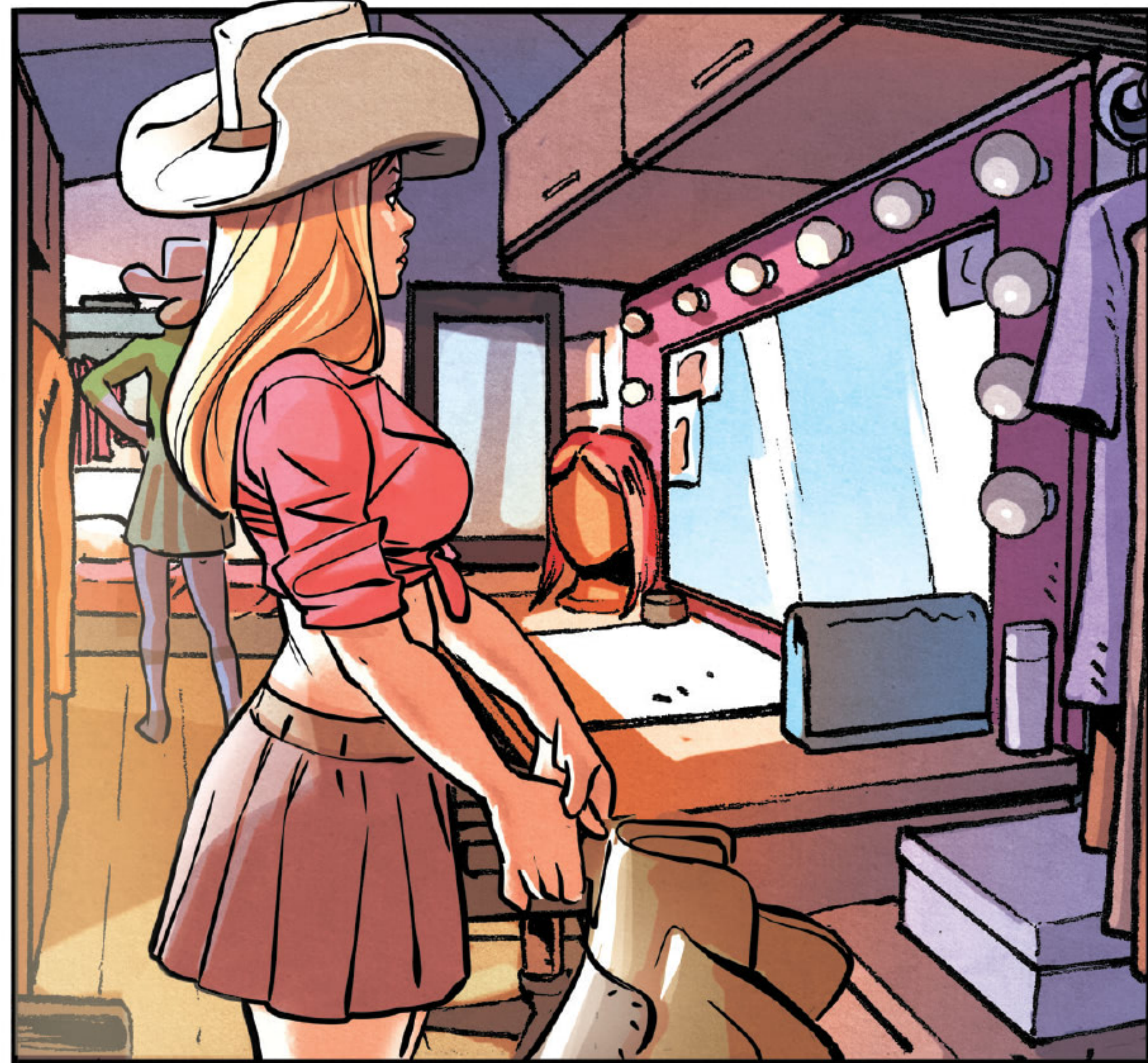
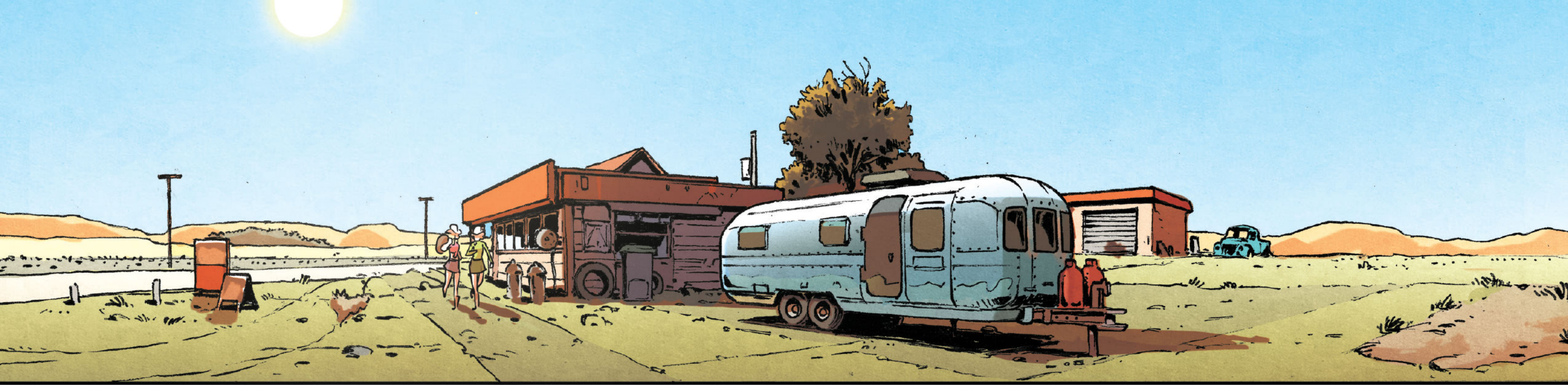
?

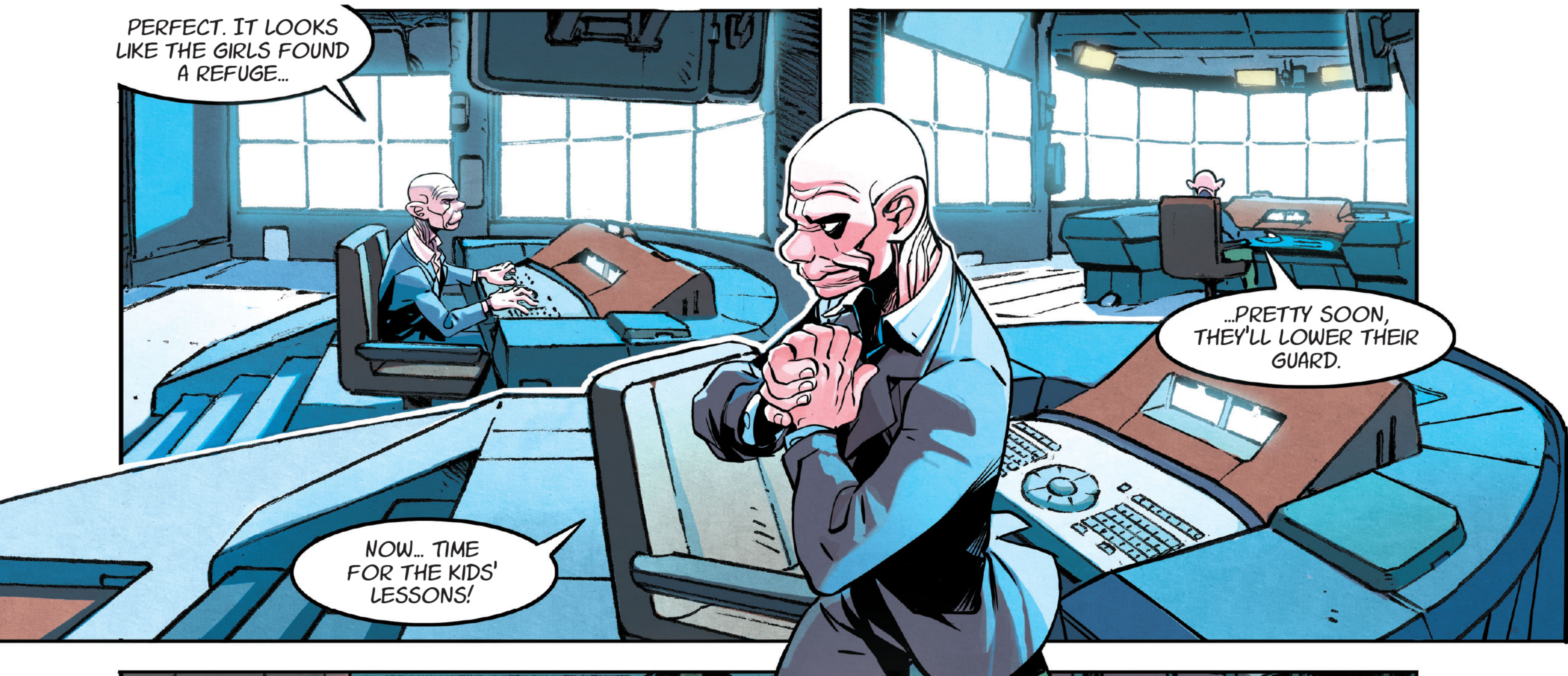


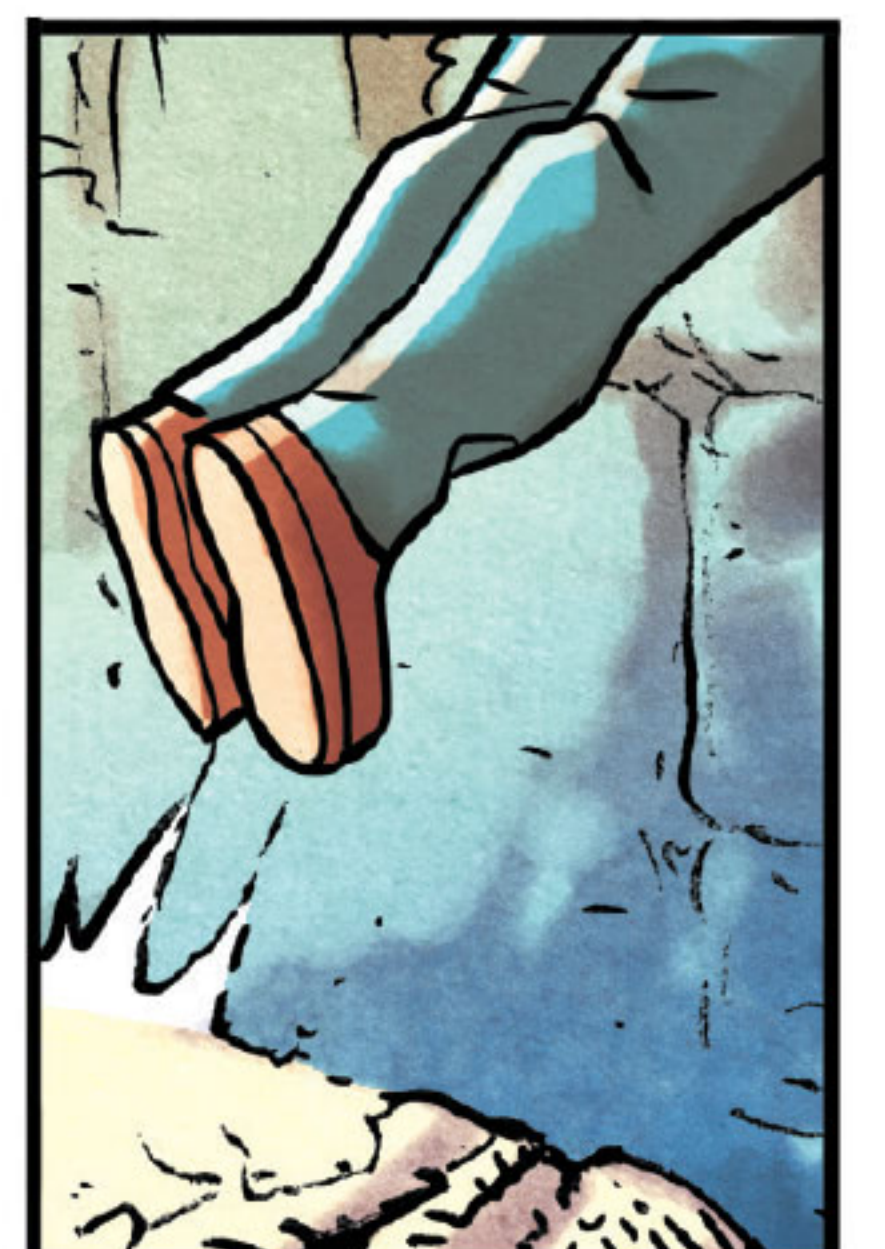
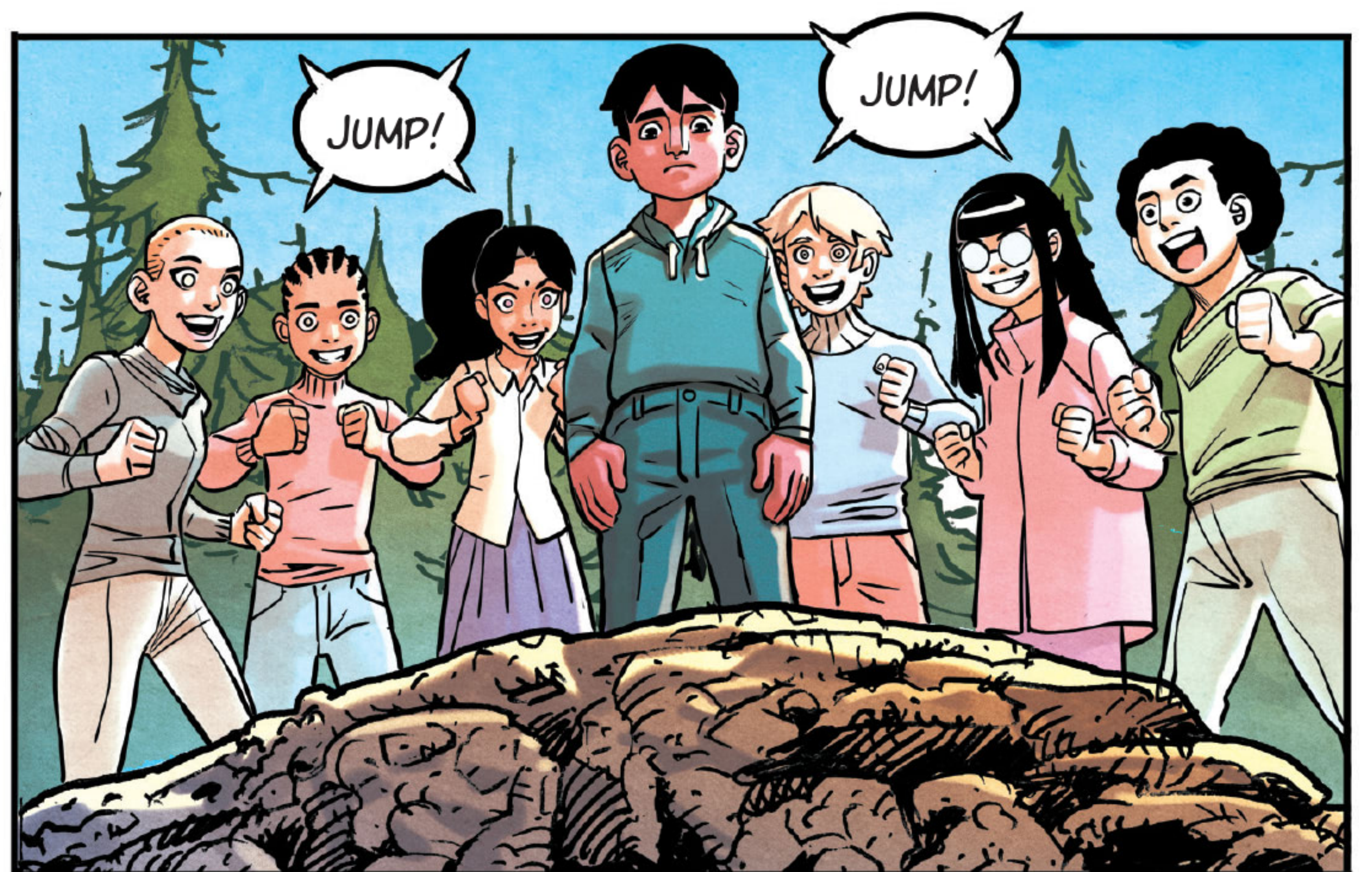
I AIN'T ASKING, BUT I'D
LOVE TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
RUNNING FROM...



LATER.
PROMISE.

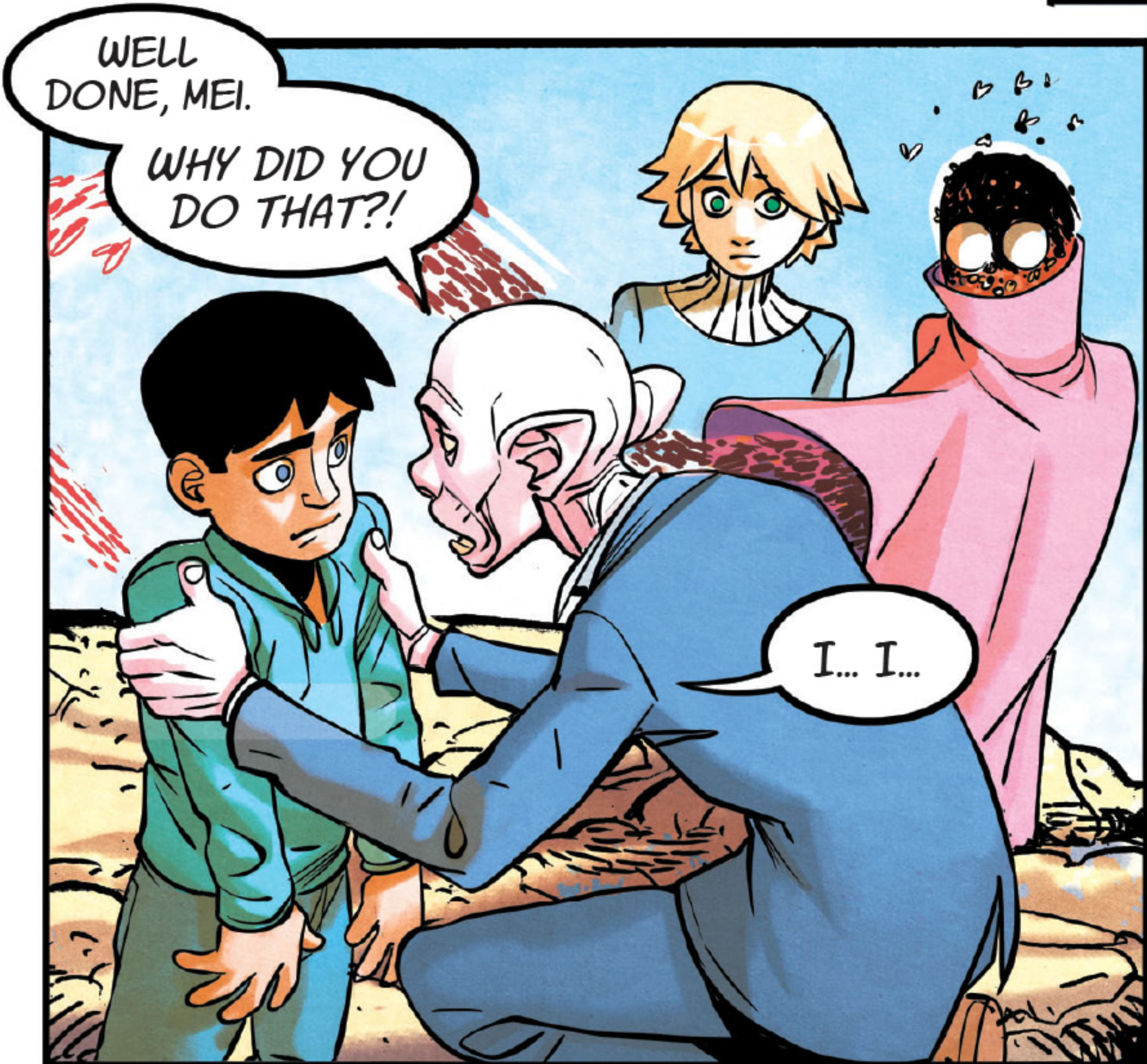








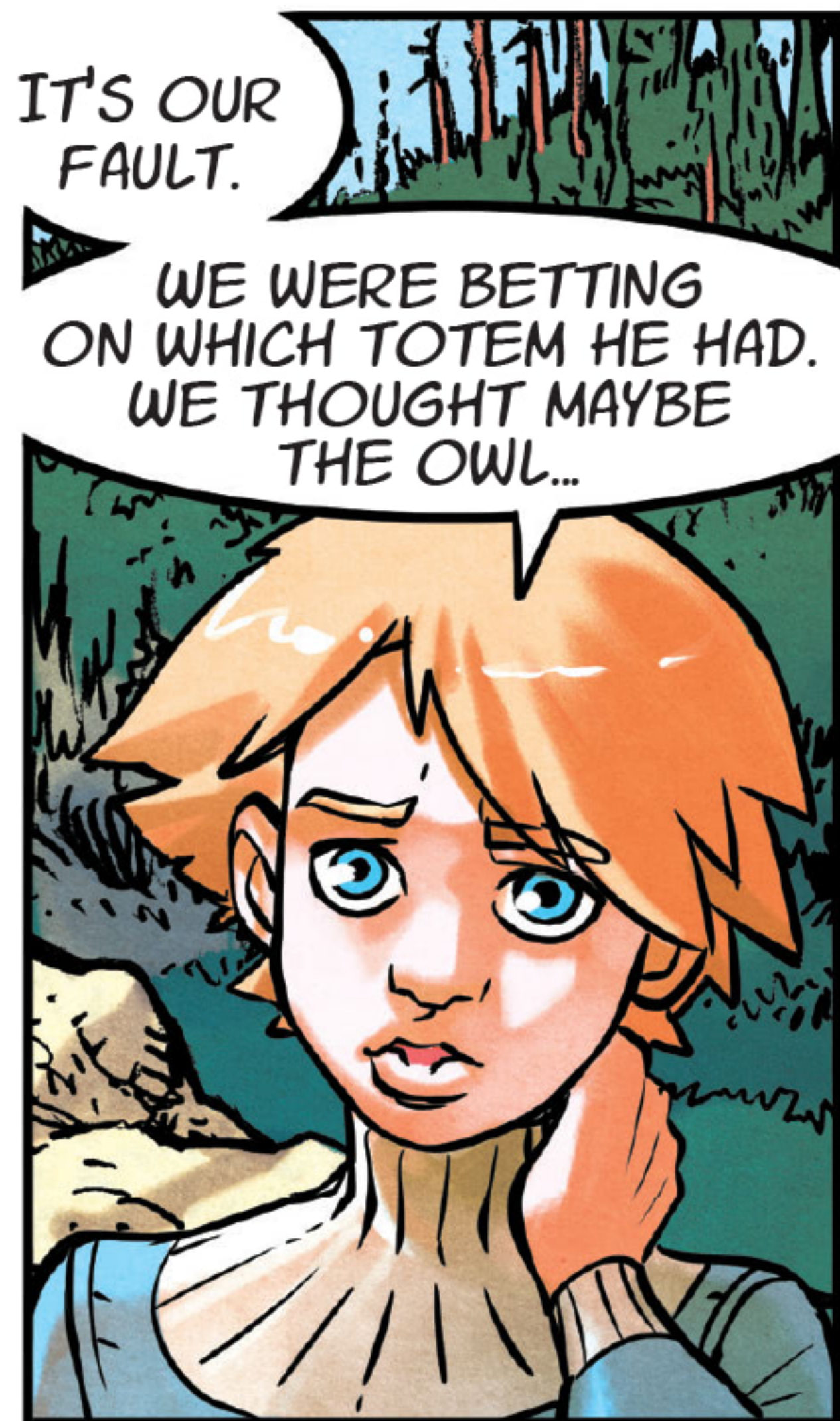
HURRY UP AND
HELP ME! ALL OF
YOU!



WELL
DONE, MEI.

WHY DID YOU
DO THAT?!

I... I...



IT'S OUR
FAULT.

WE WERE BETTING
ON WHICH TOTEM HE HAD.
WE THOUGHT MAYBE
THE OWL...



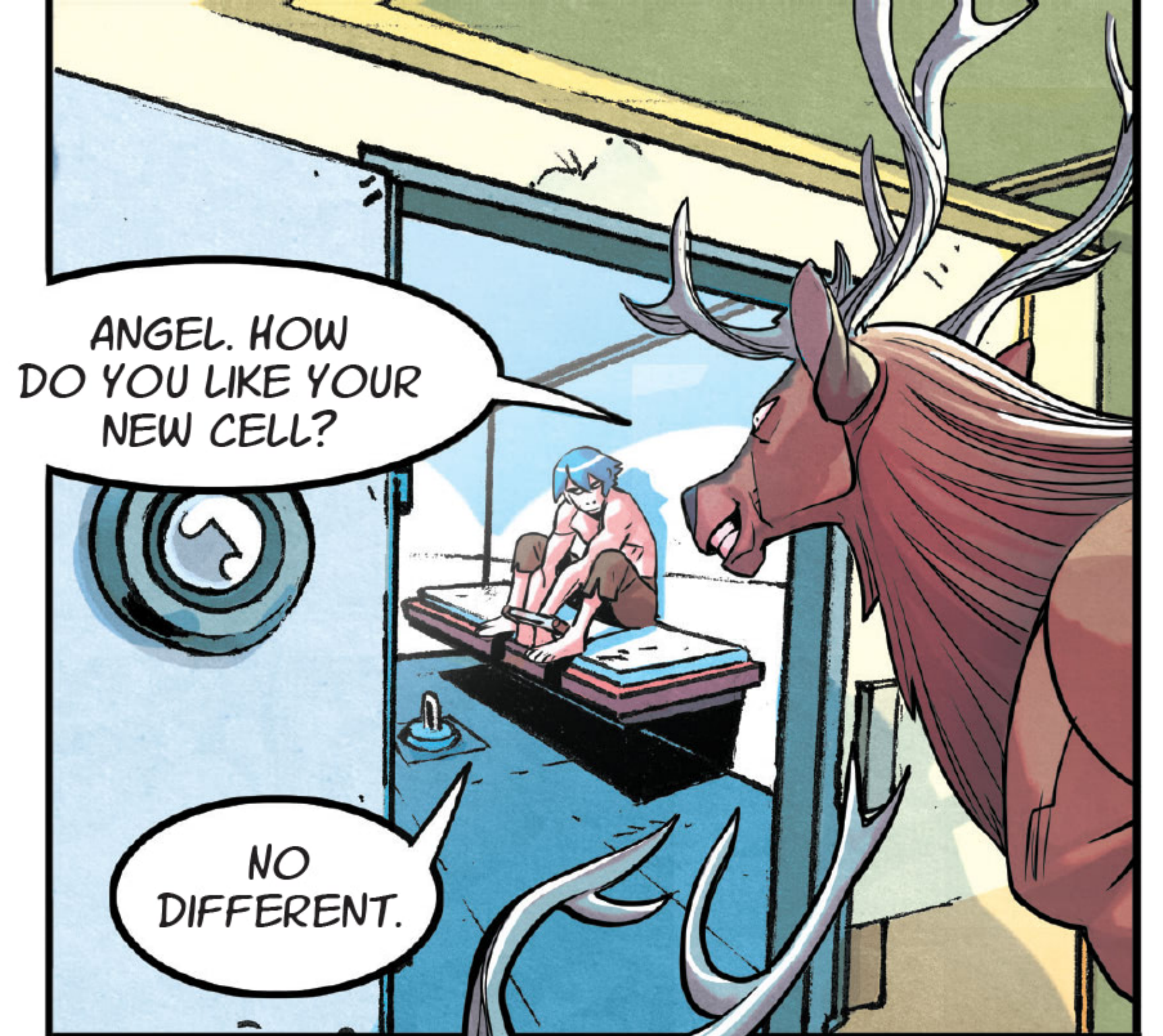
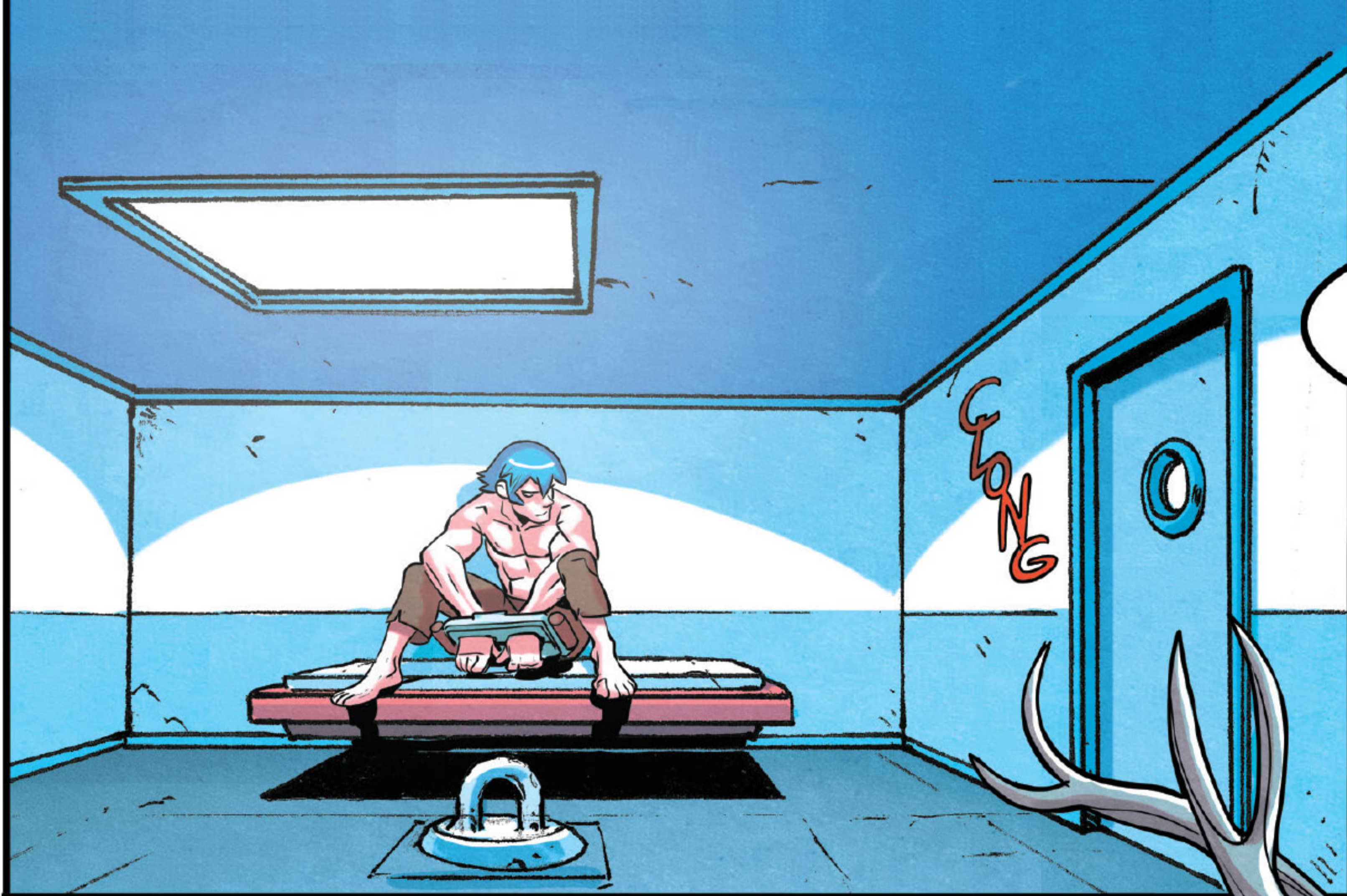
OWLS CAN
FLY...



WHAT THE
HELL WERE YOU
THINKING?!

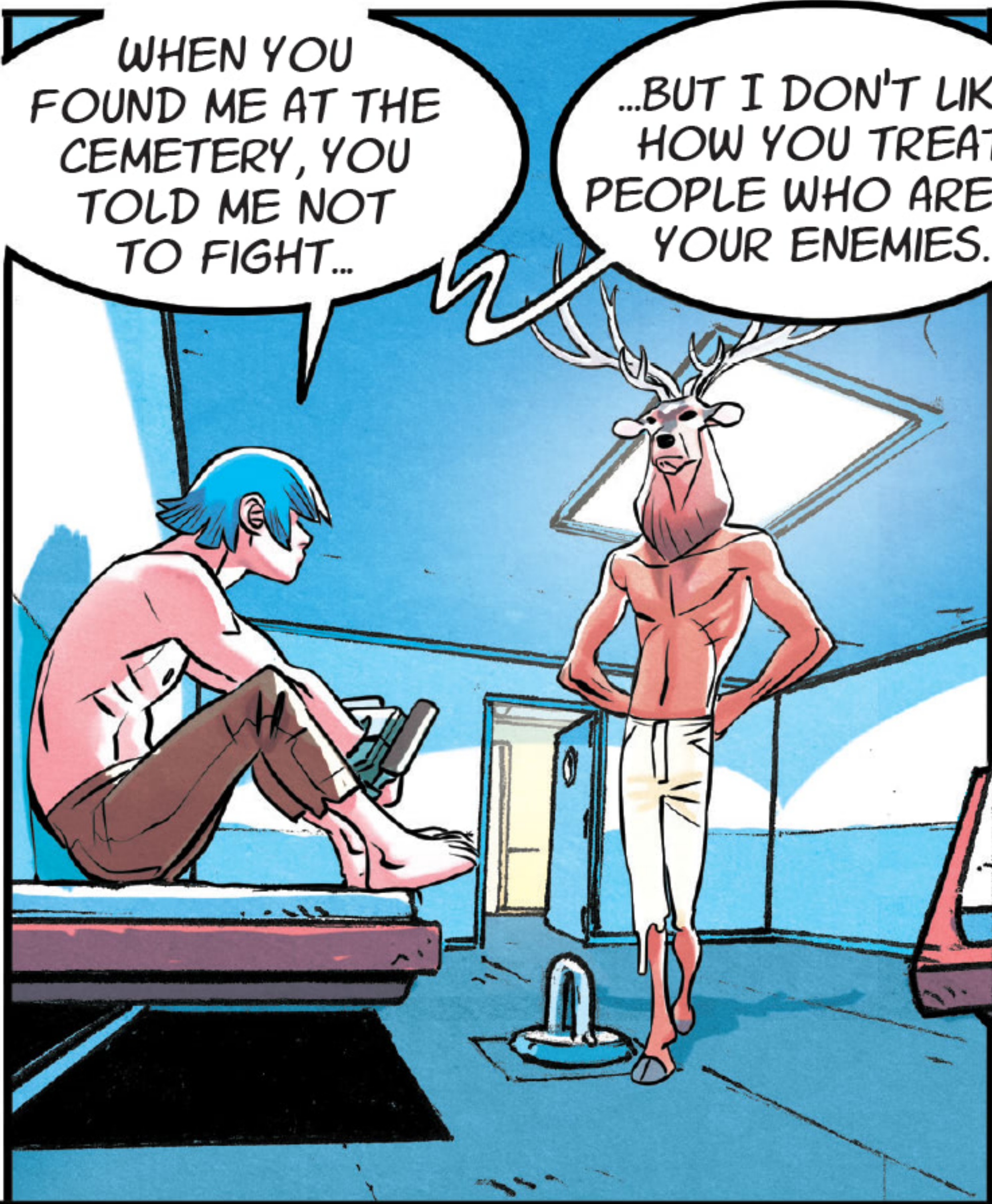
JAMAL COULD HAVE DIED! YOUR
POWERS ARE NOT PLAYTHINGS, YOU
NITWITS!





ANGEL. HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEW CELL?

NO DIFFERENT.



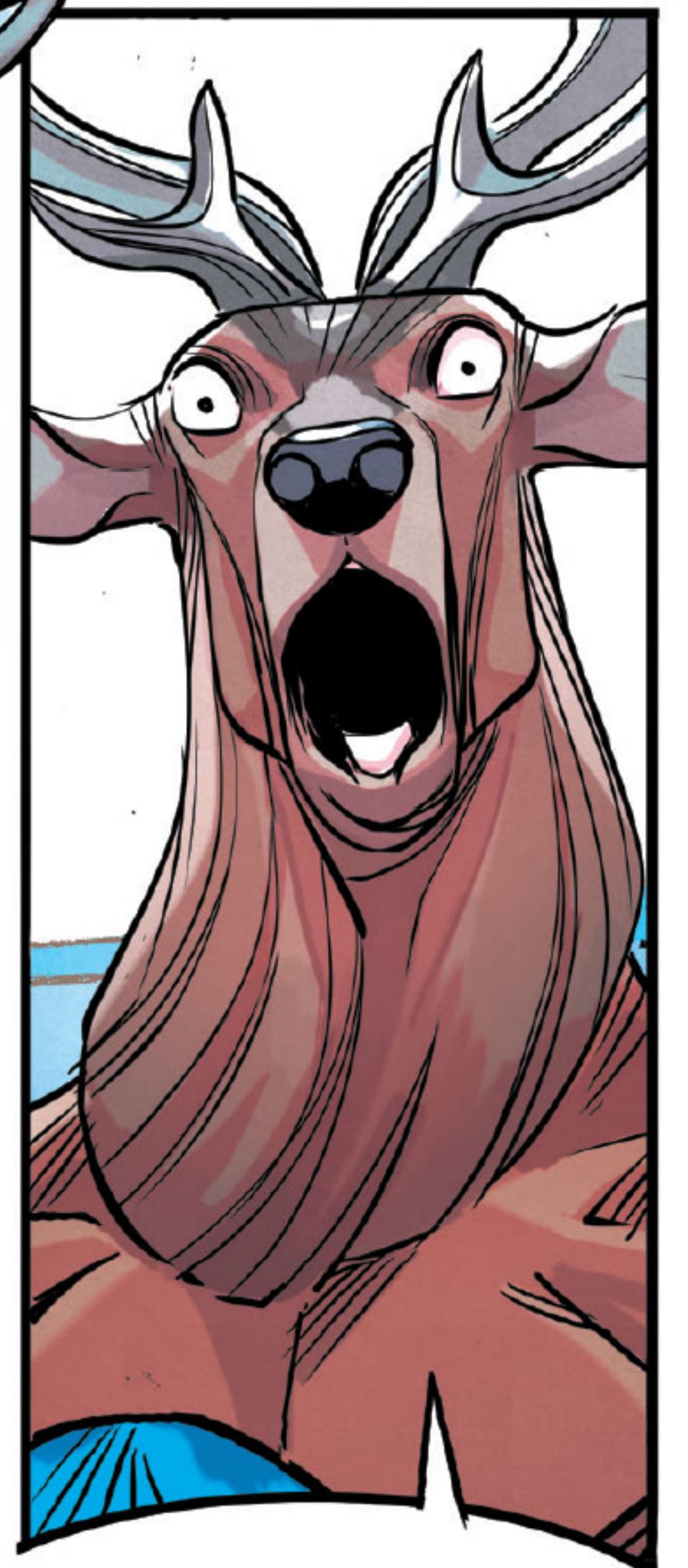
WHEN YOU FOUND ME AT THE CEMETERY, YOU TOLD ME NOT TO FIGHT...

...BUT I DON'T LIKE HOW YOU TREAT PEOPLE WHO AREN'T YOUR ENEMIES.

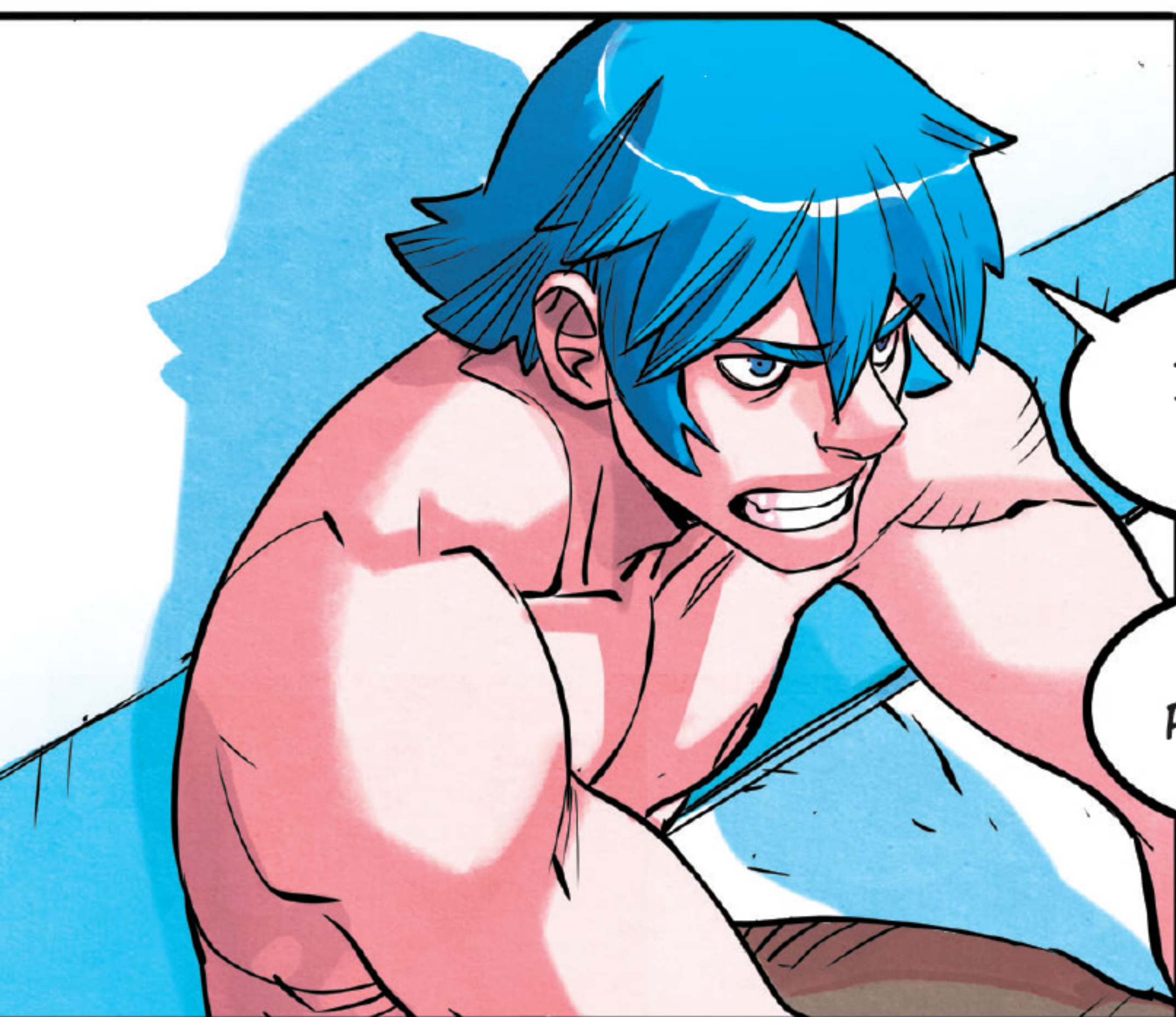


YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU'LL BE FREE AGAIN SOON.

YOU KIDNAPPED MY FRIENDS. YOU EVEN KILLED ONE OF THEM.



PIERRE'S DEATH WAS NOT PART OF OUR PLAN.

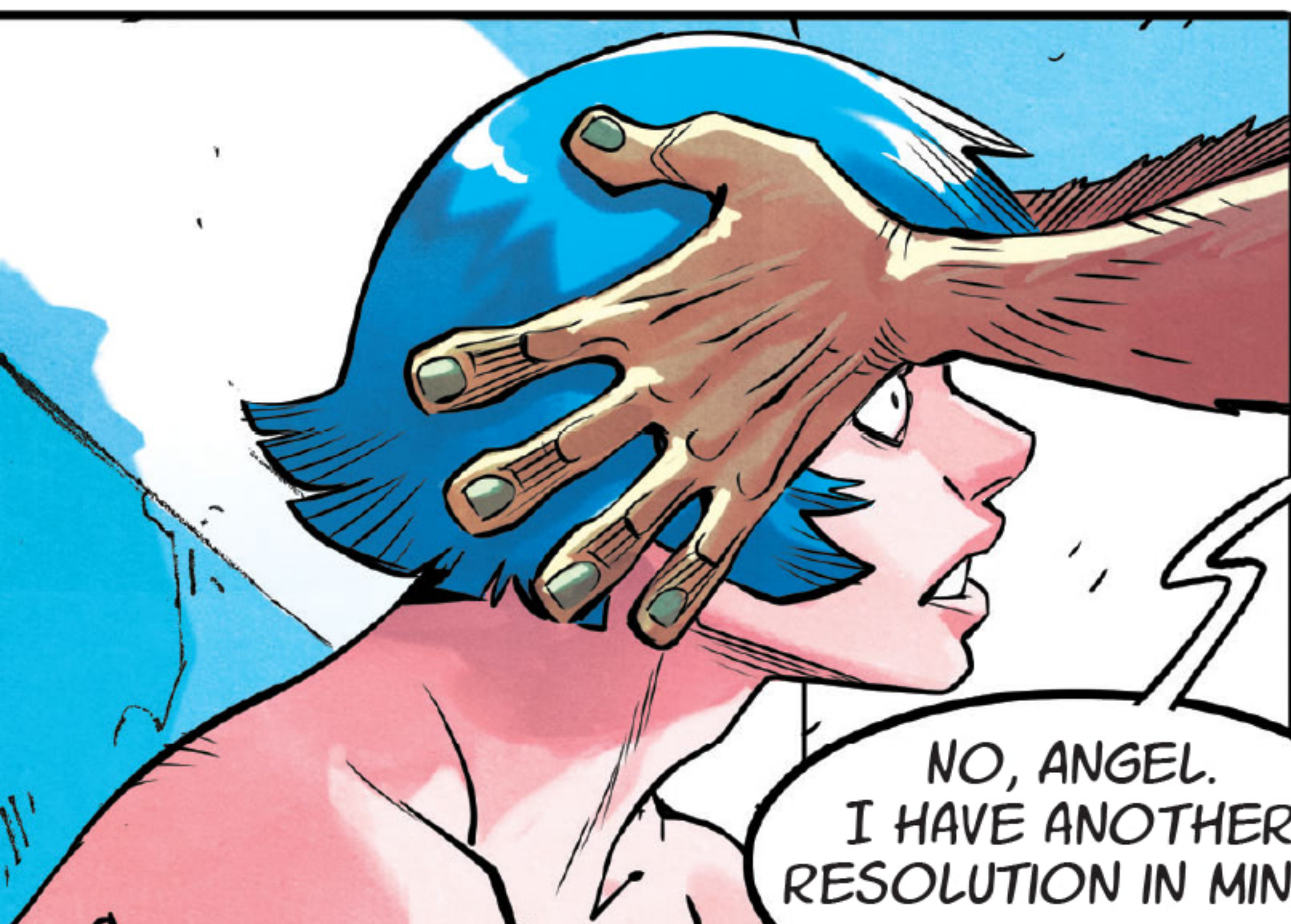


I DON'T CARE.

YOU'LL PAY FOR IT.

KIAAAA!!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!



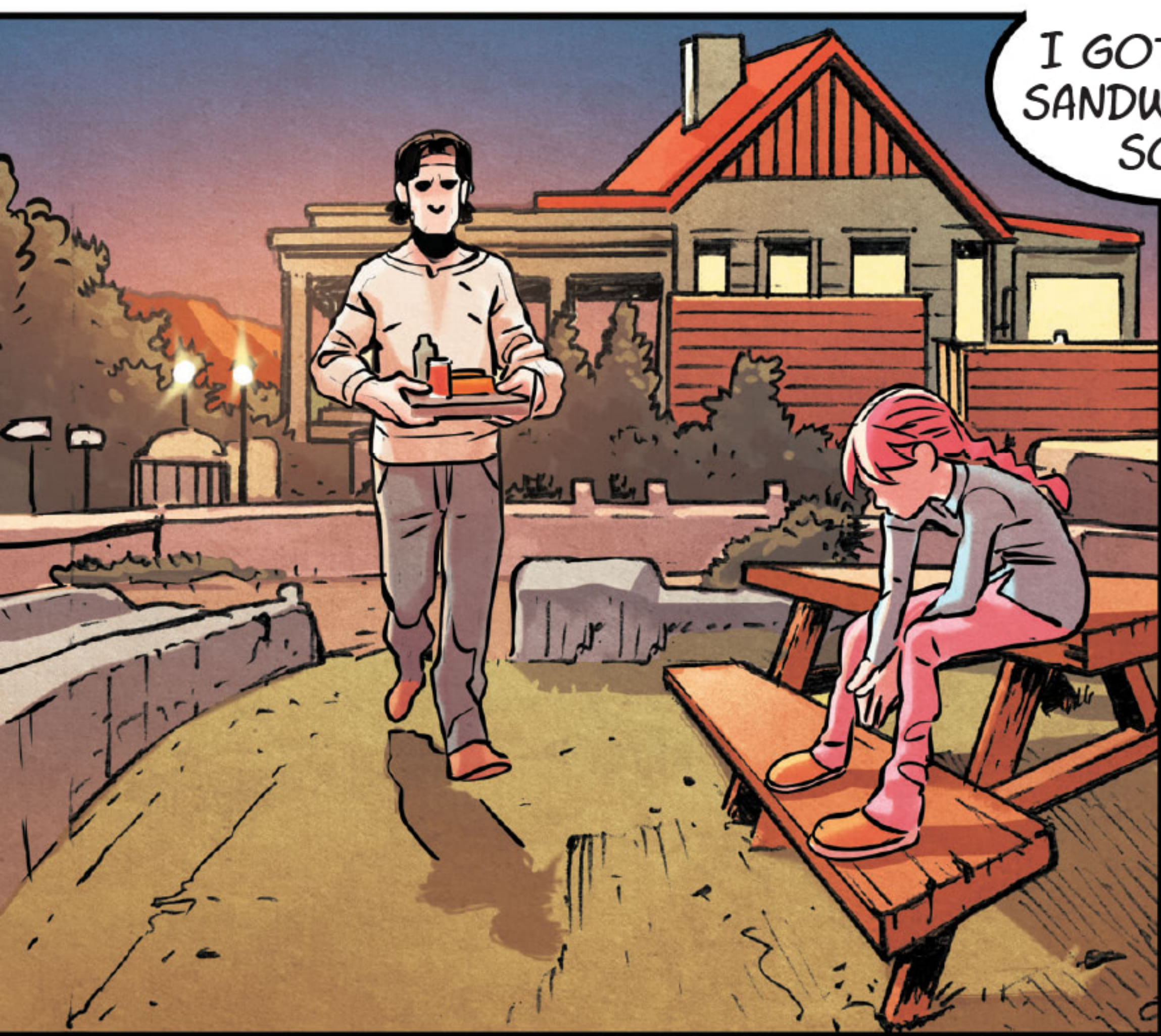
NO, ANGEL. I HAVE ANOTHER RESOLUTION IN MIND...



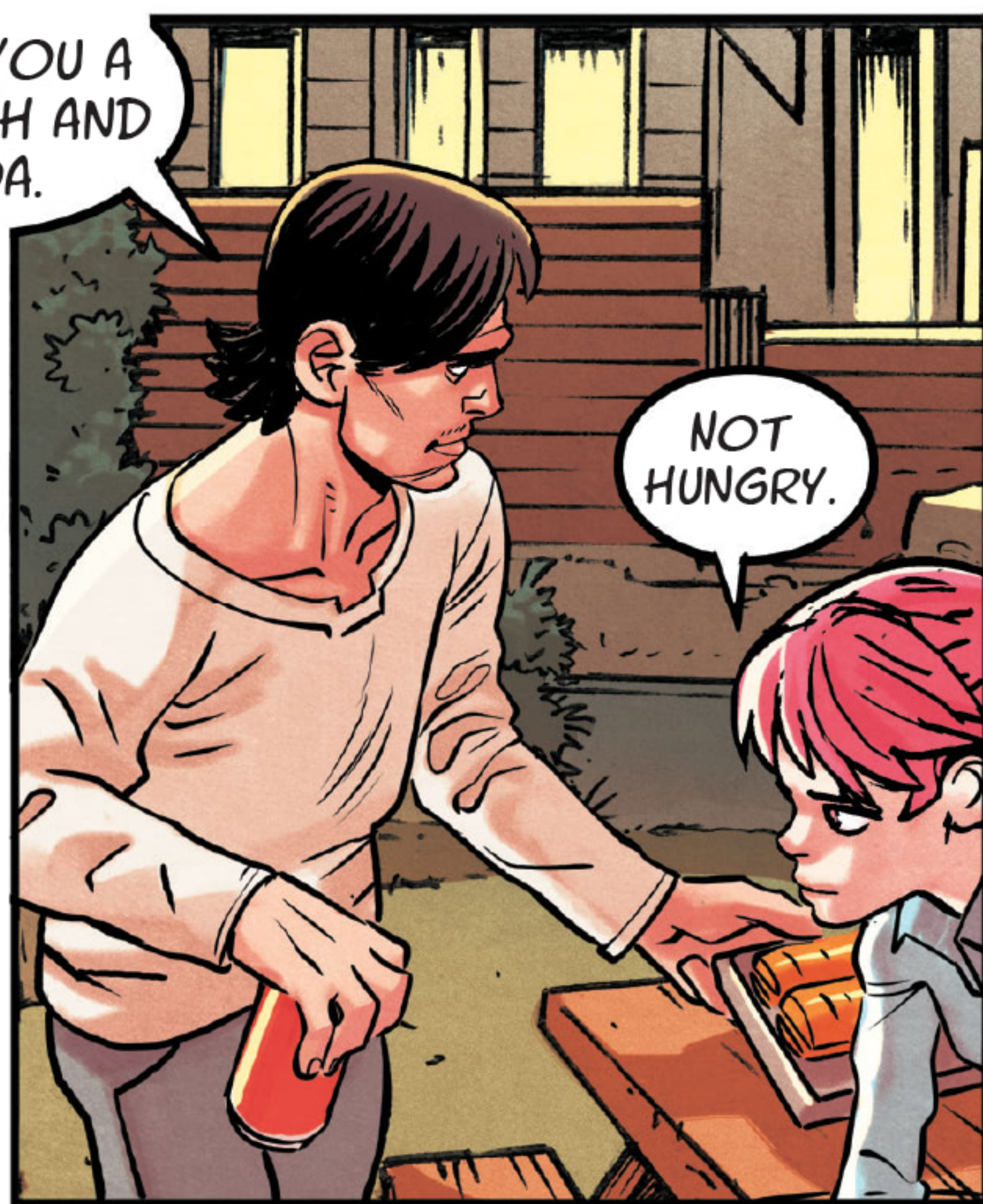
ONE OF MY POWERS IS TO MAKE PEOPLE FORGET.

I'M FREEING YOU FROM YOUR HATRED!

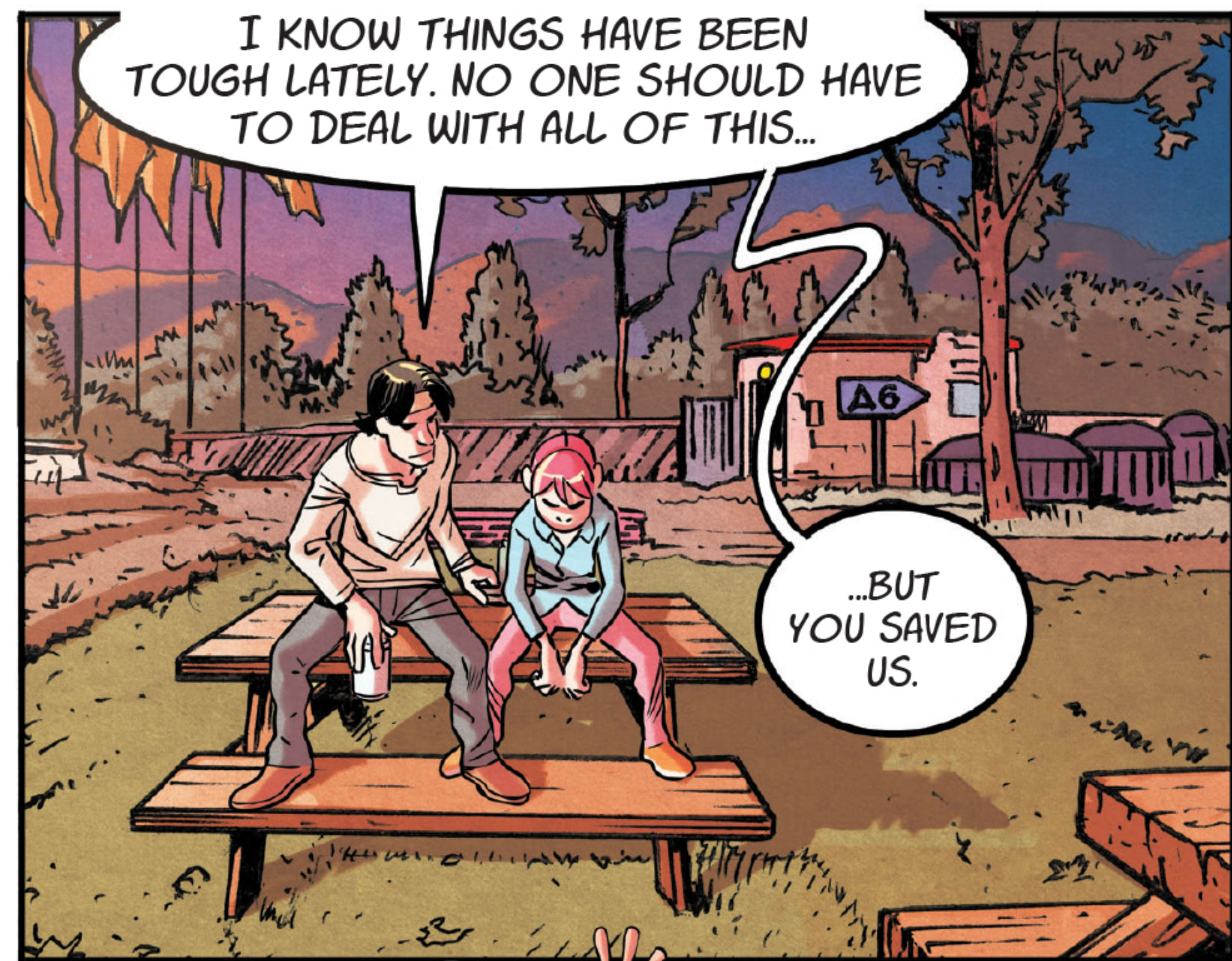




I GOT YOU A SANDWICH AND SODA.



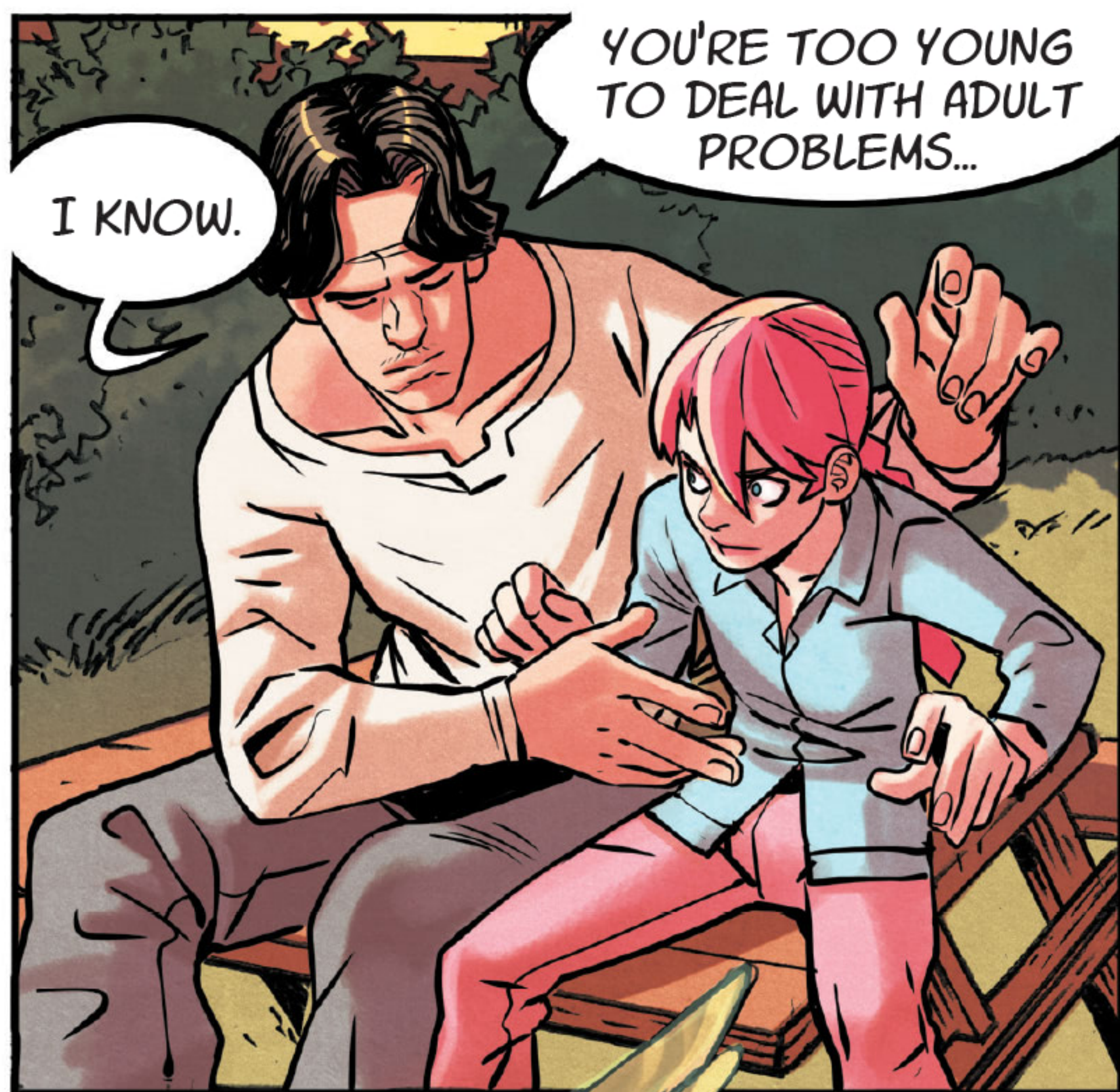
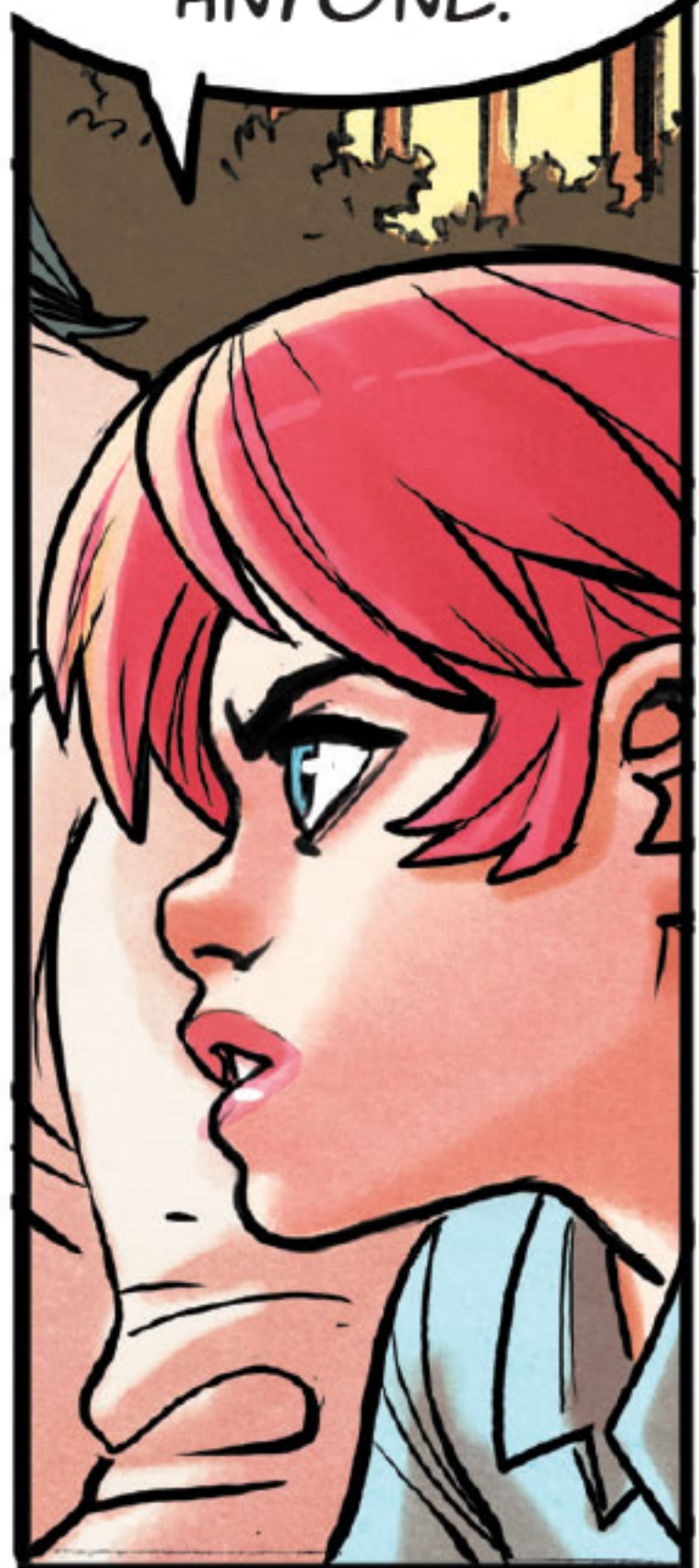
NOT HUNGRY.



I KNOW THINGS HAVE BEEN TOUGH LATELY. NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH ALL OF THIS...

...BUT YOU SAVED US.

I DON'T CARE. I'D RATHER NOT HAVE KILLED ANYONE.



YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO DEAL WITH ADULT PROBLEMS...

I KNOW.



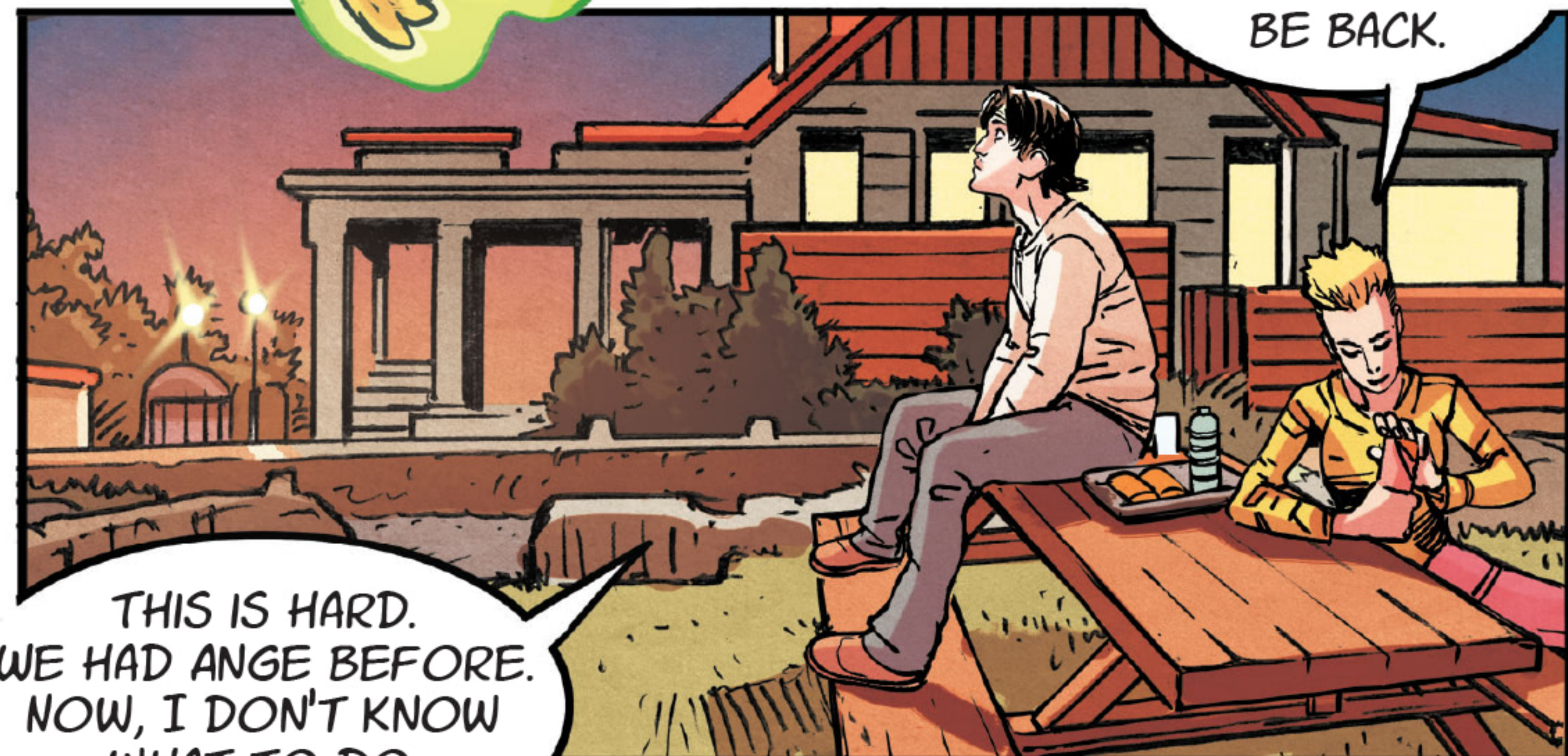
STOP!

YOU DON'T KNOW!



PAULA, WAIT!

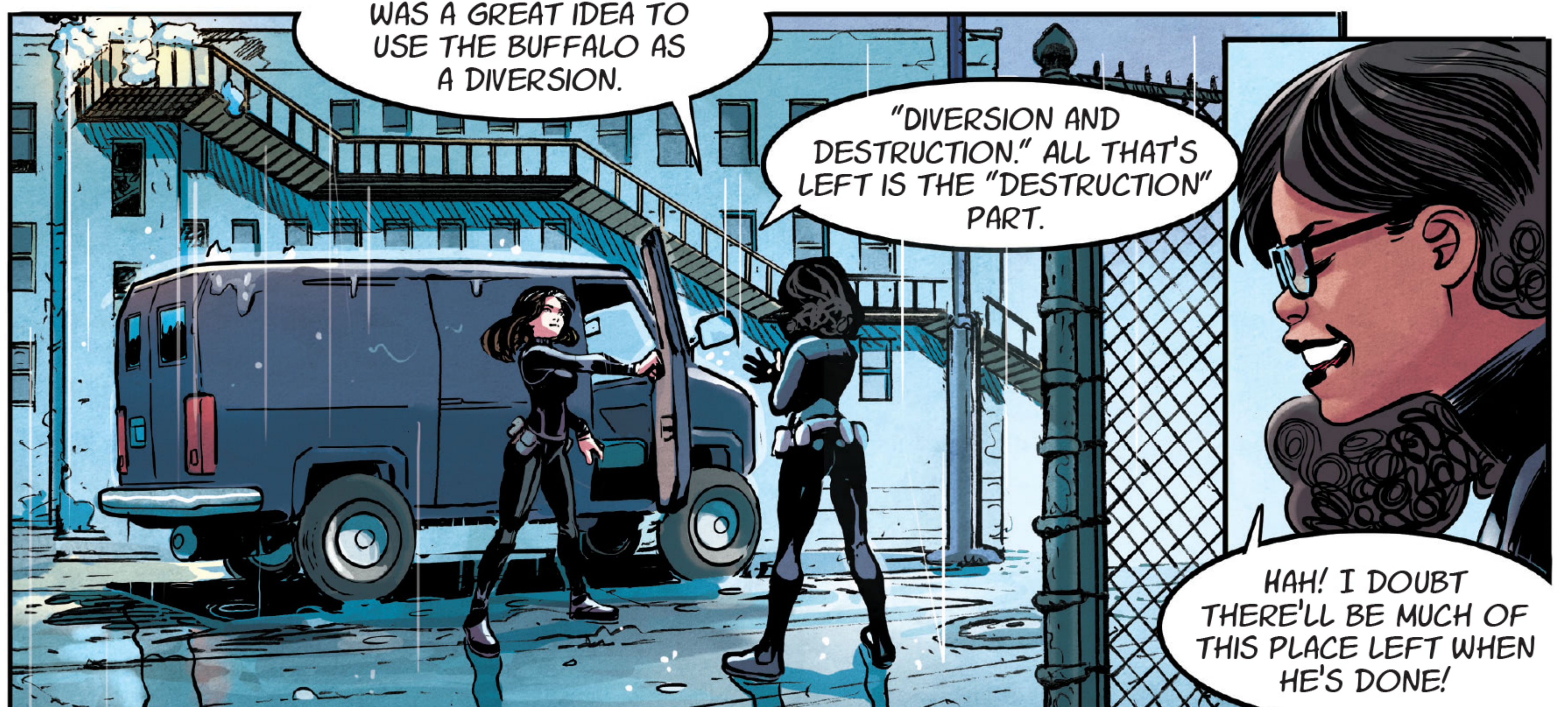
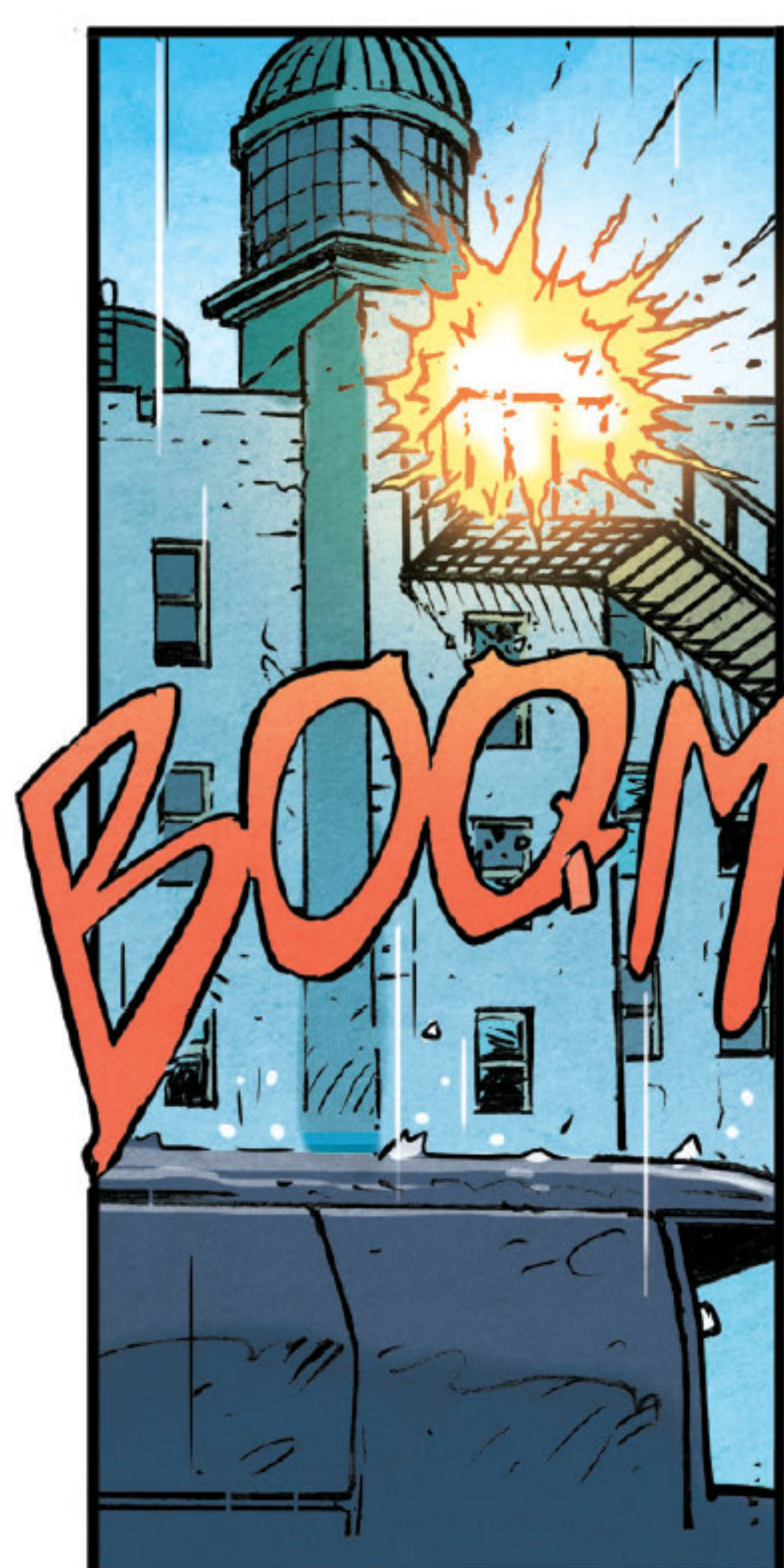
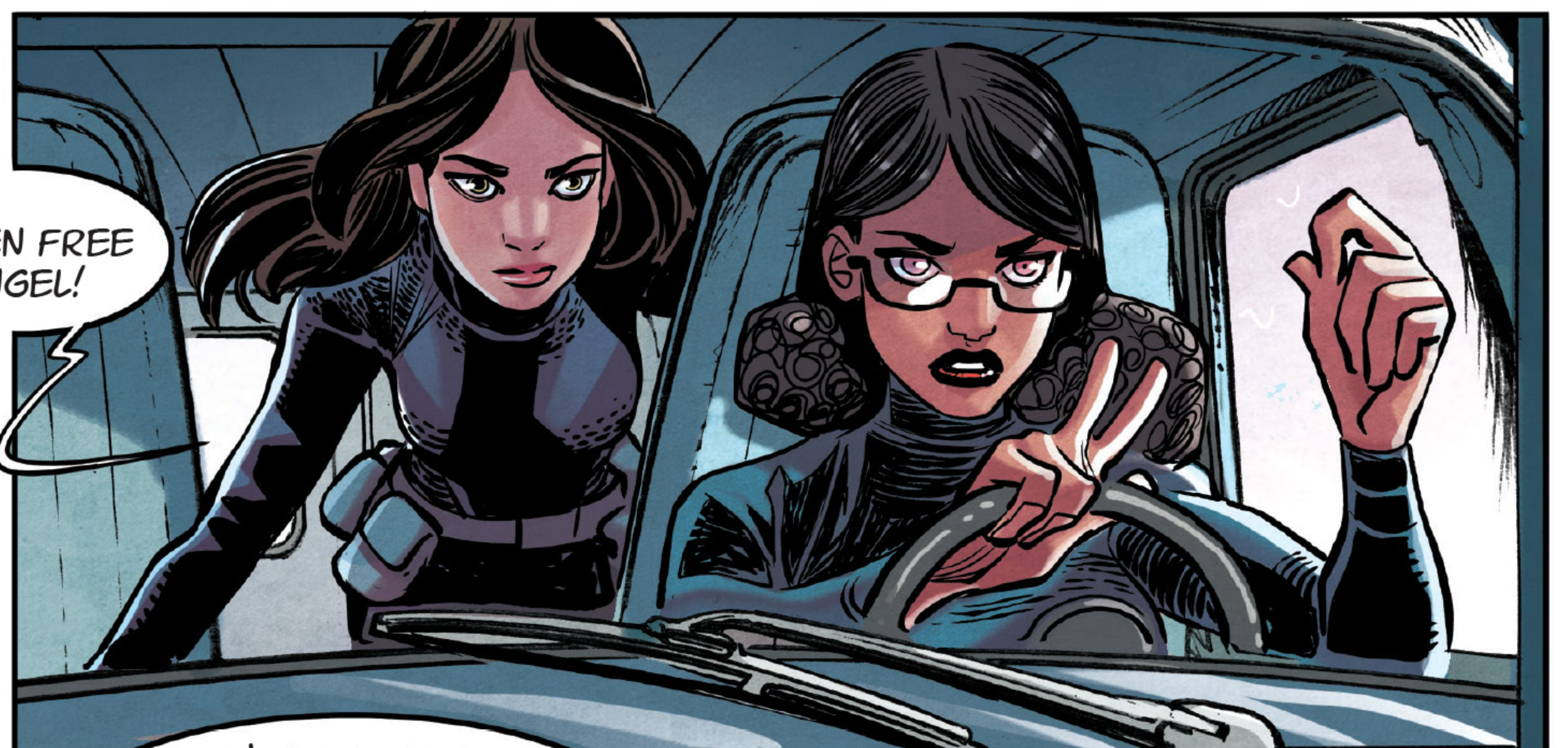
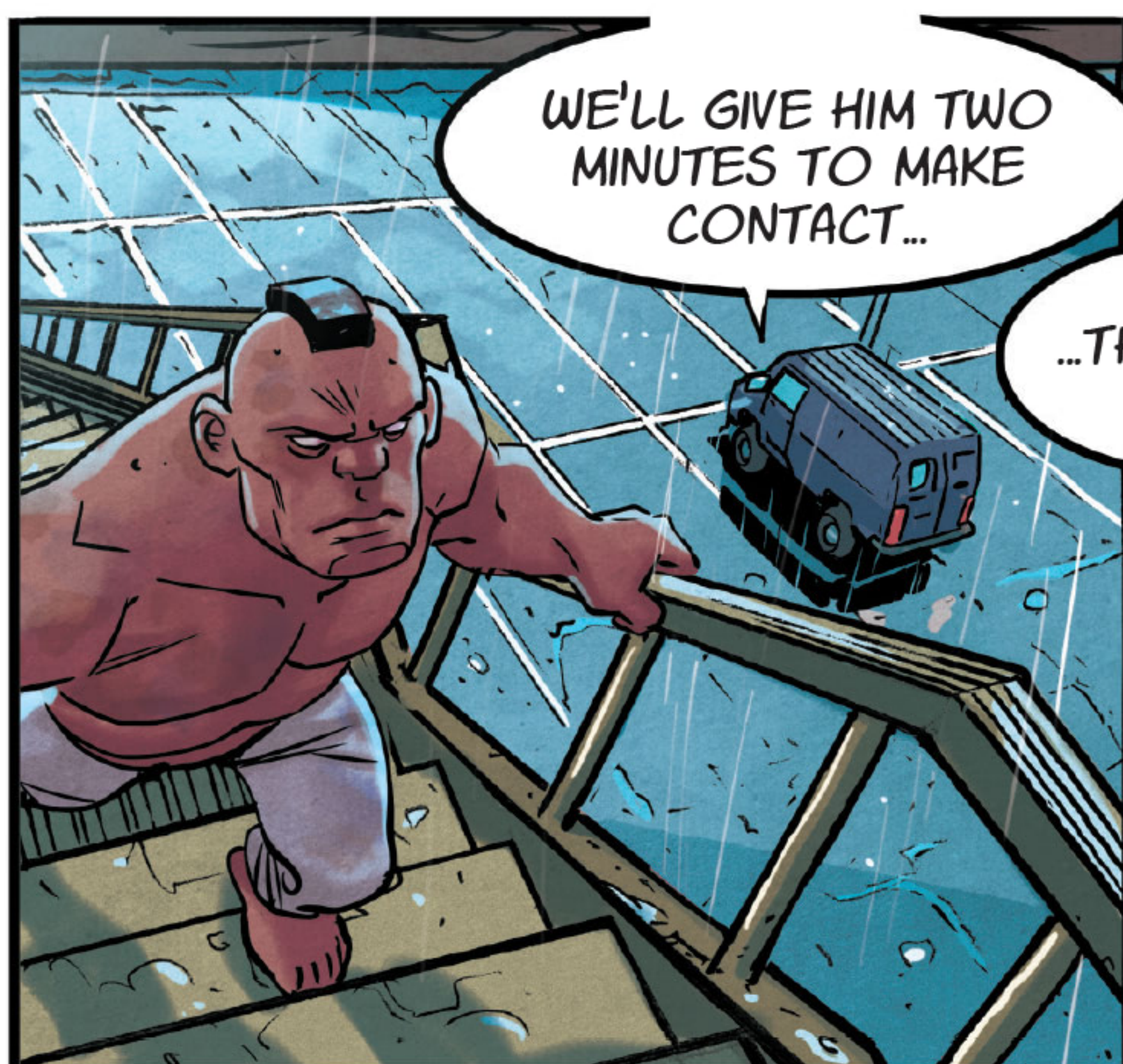
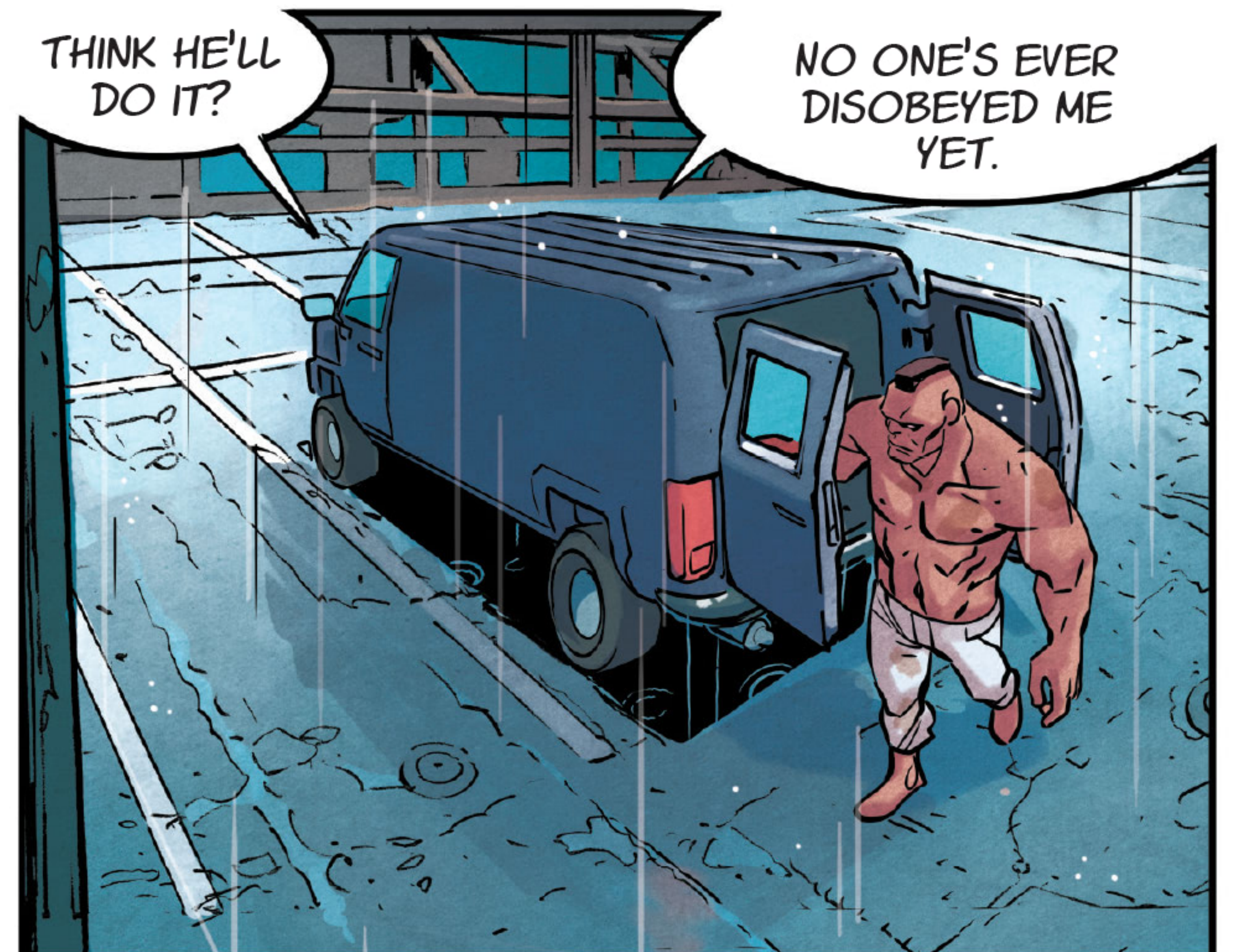
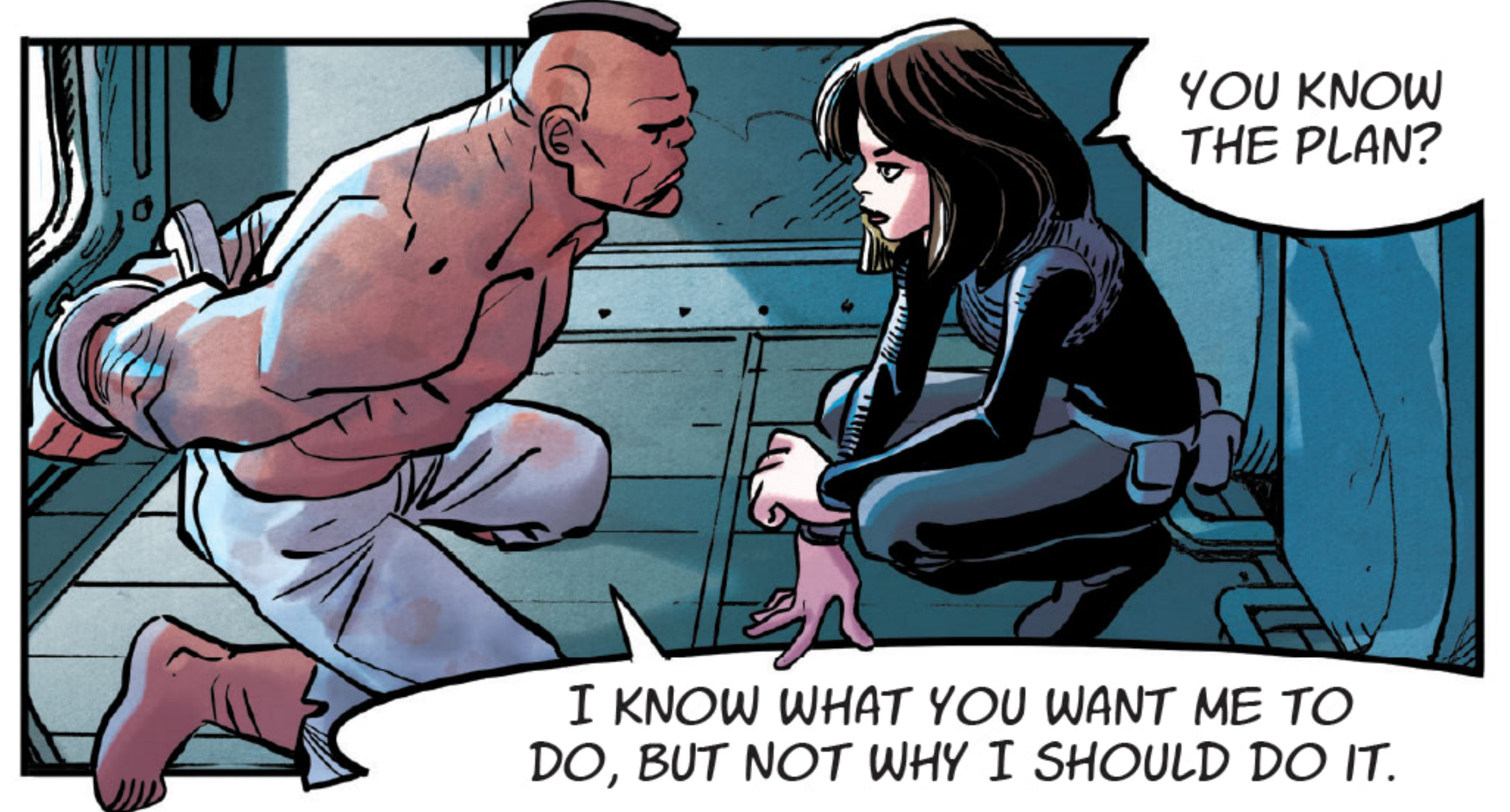
DON'T WORRY. SHE'LL BE BACK.



THIS IS HARD. WE HAD ANGE BEFORE. NOW, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

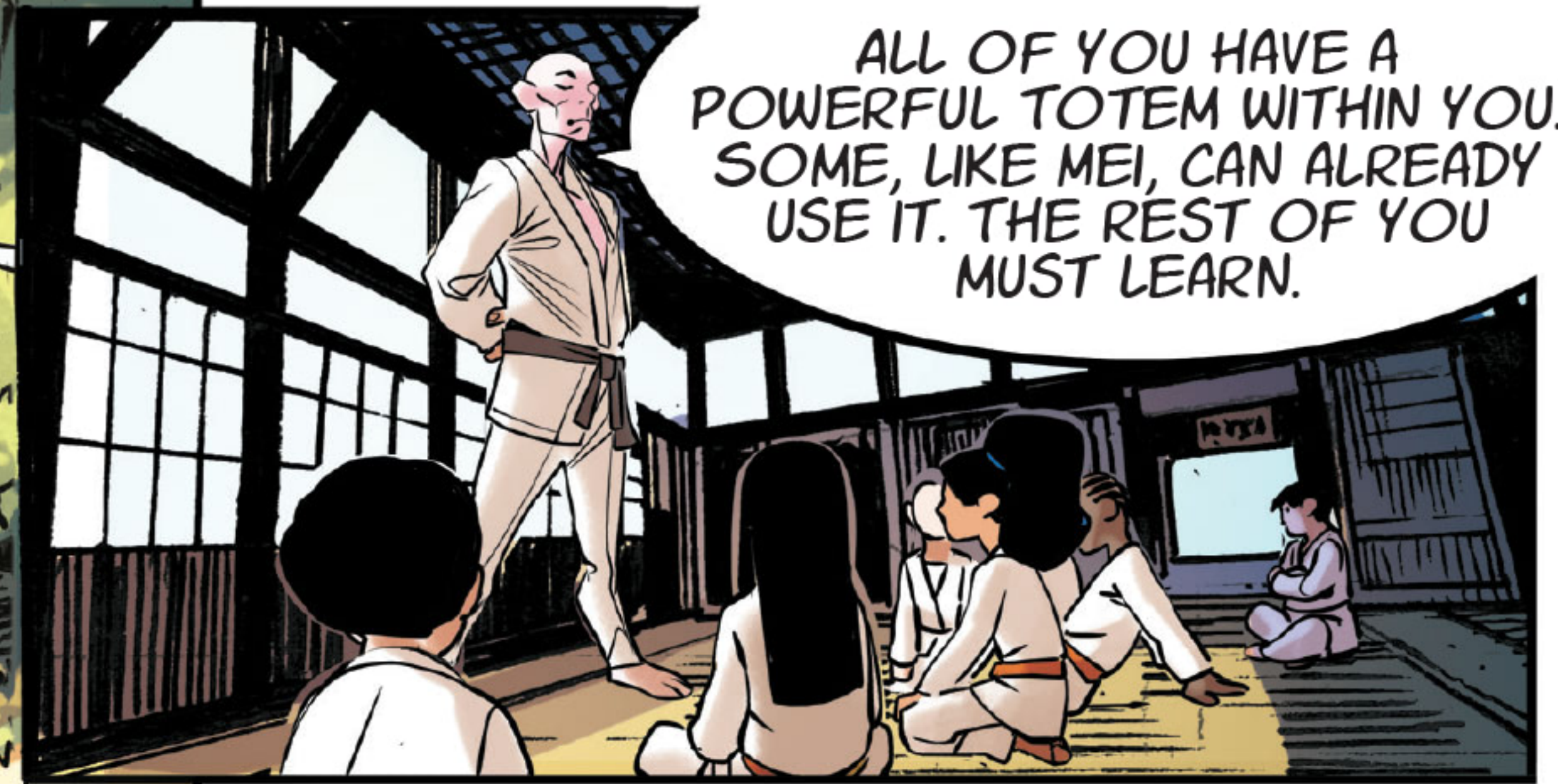


YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME WITH US. TRUST ME AND GO BACK TO YOUR LIFE. IT'D BE BETTER FOR ALL OF US.



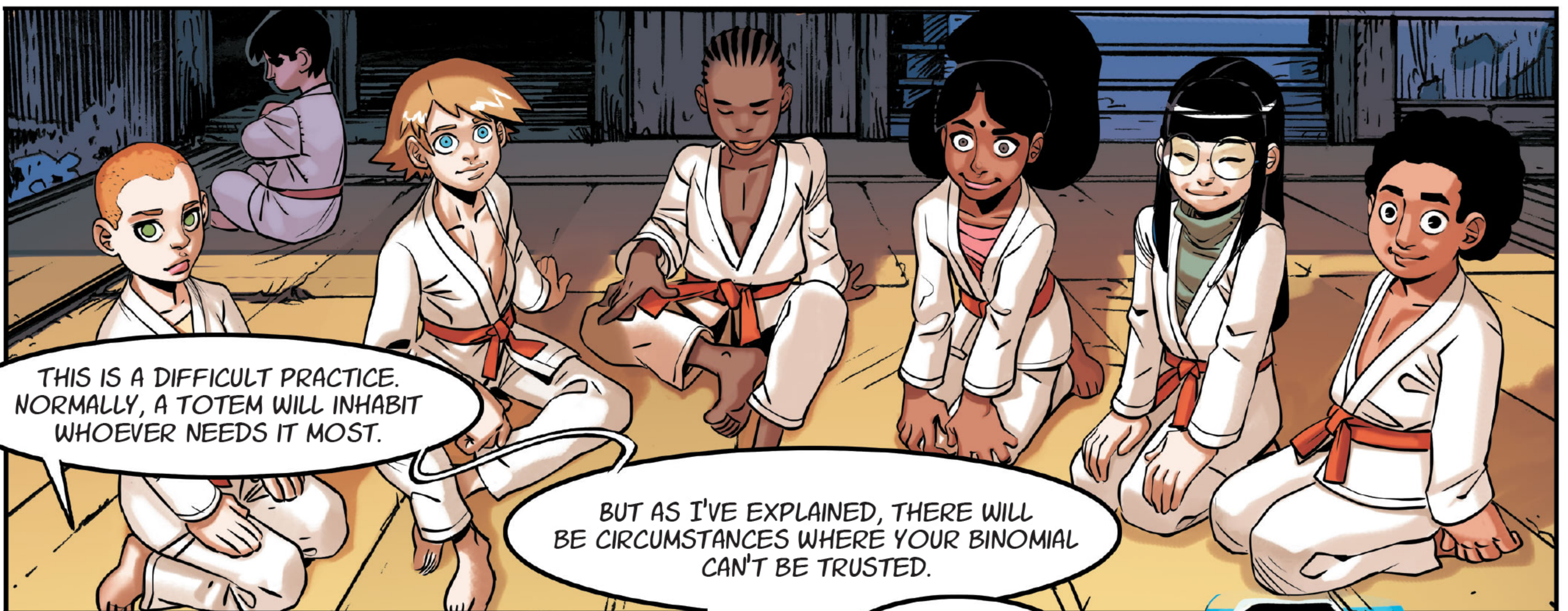


JAMAL, COME SIT WITH US. CLASS IS STARTING.



ALL OF YOU HAVE A POWERFUL TOTEM WITHIN YOU. SOME, LIKE MEI, CAN ALREADY USE IT. THE REST OF YOU MUST LEARN.

FOR THIS EXERCISE, THE ADVANCED STUDENTS WILL LEARN HOW TO SUMMON THEIR TOTEMS EVEN IF YOUR BINOMIAL NEEDS IT.



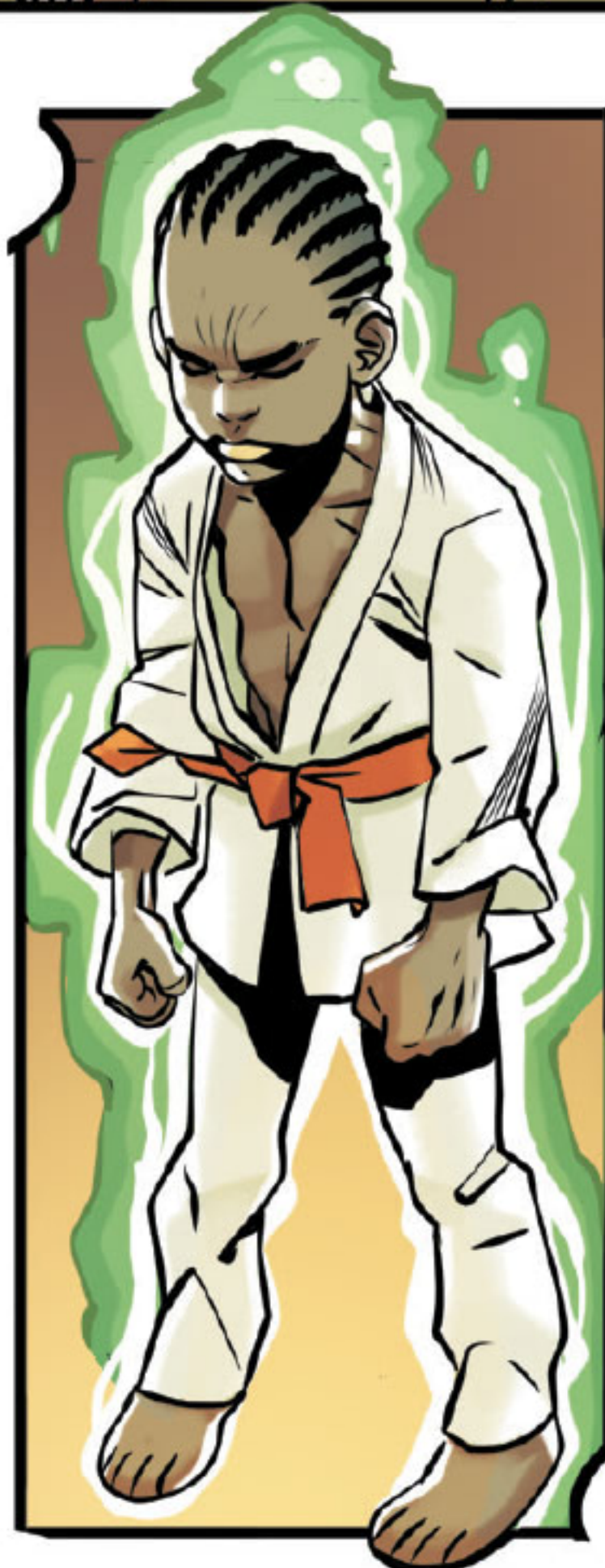
THIS IS A DIFFICULT PRACTICE. NORMALLY, A TOTEM WILL INHABIT WHOEVER NEEDS IT MOST.

BUT AS I'VE EXPLAINED, THERE WILL BE CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE YOUR BINOMIAL CAN'T BE TRUSTED.

SO YOU MUST BE ABLE TO "STEAL" THE TOTEM FROM THEM WHEN NECESSARY.



BORIS? TRY IT NOW.



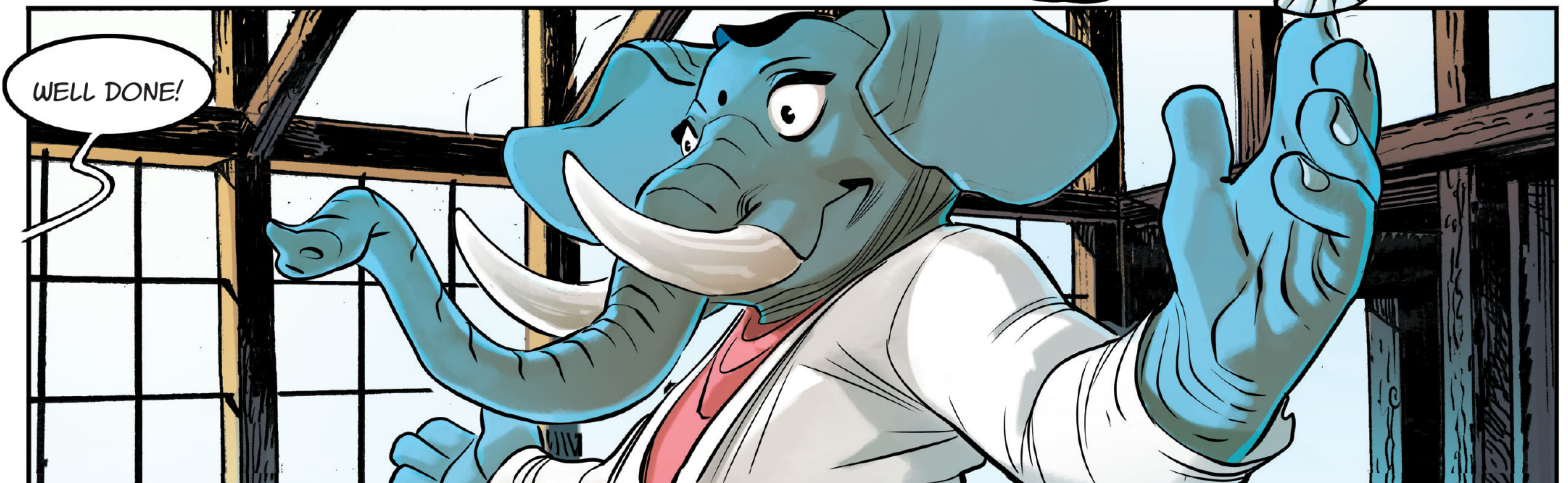
IT'S OKAY. WE'LL TRY AGAIN LATER.

AVANDI?

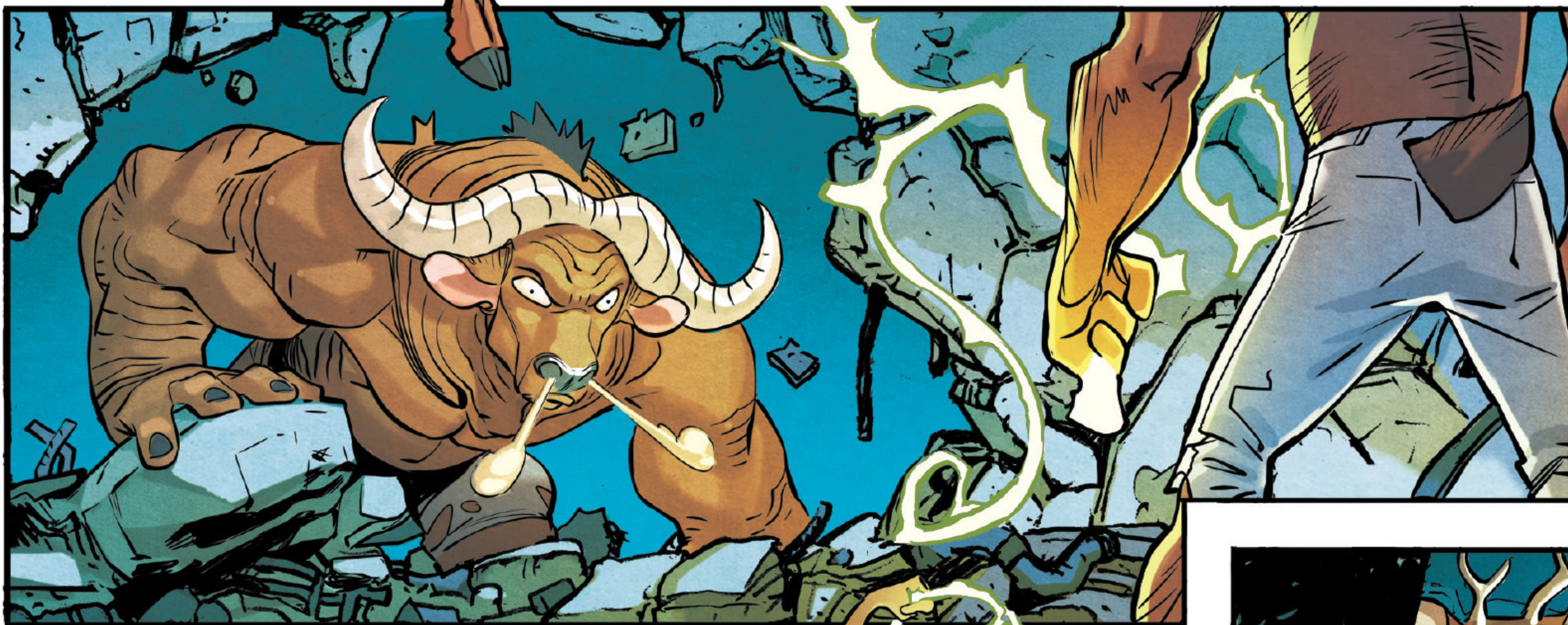
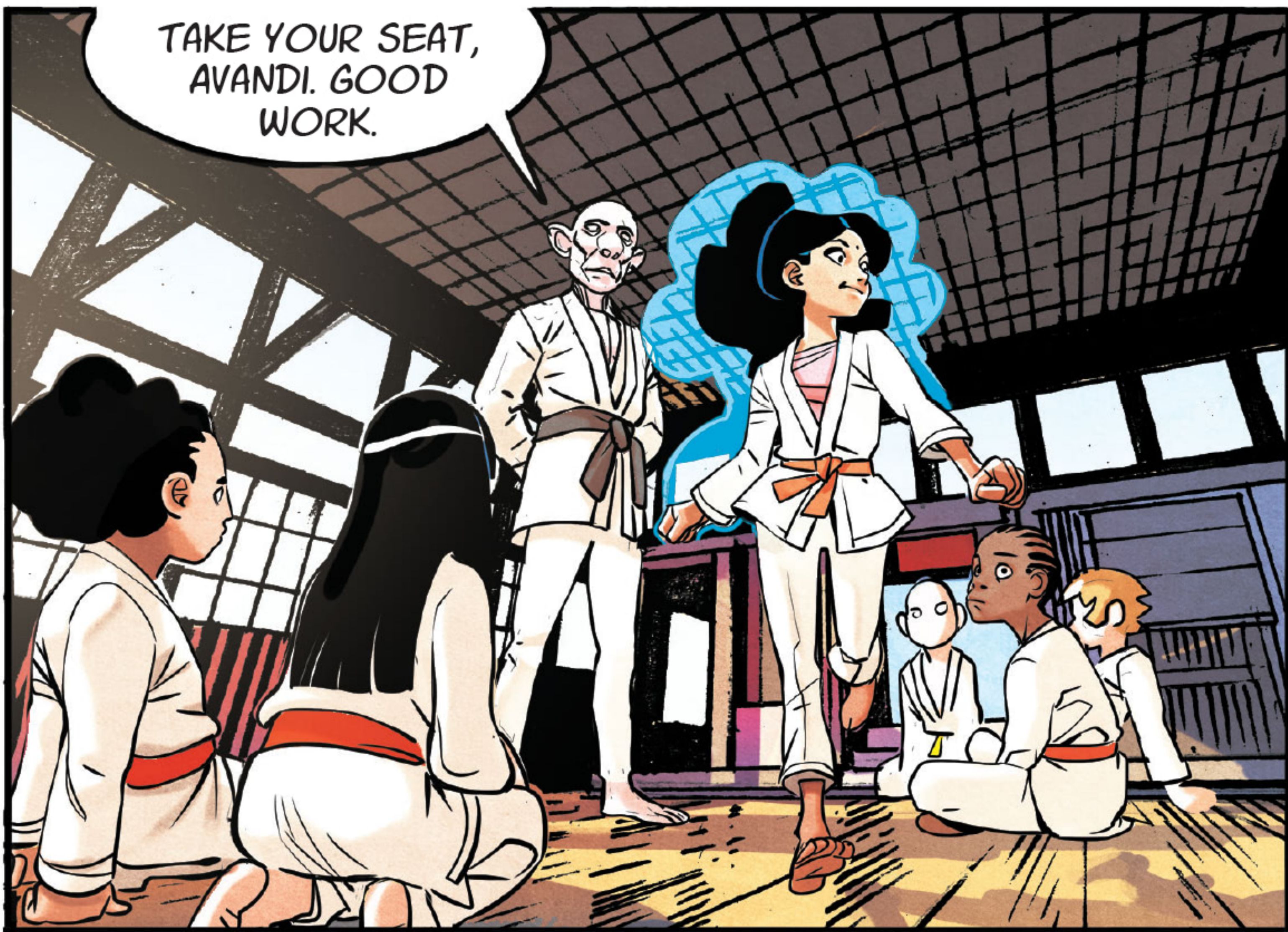


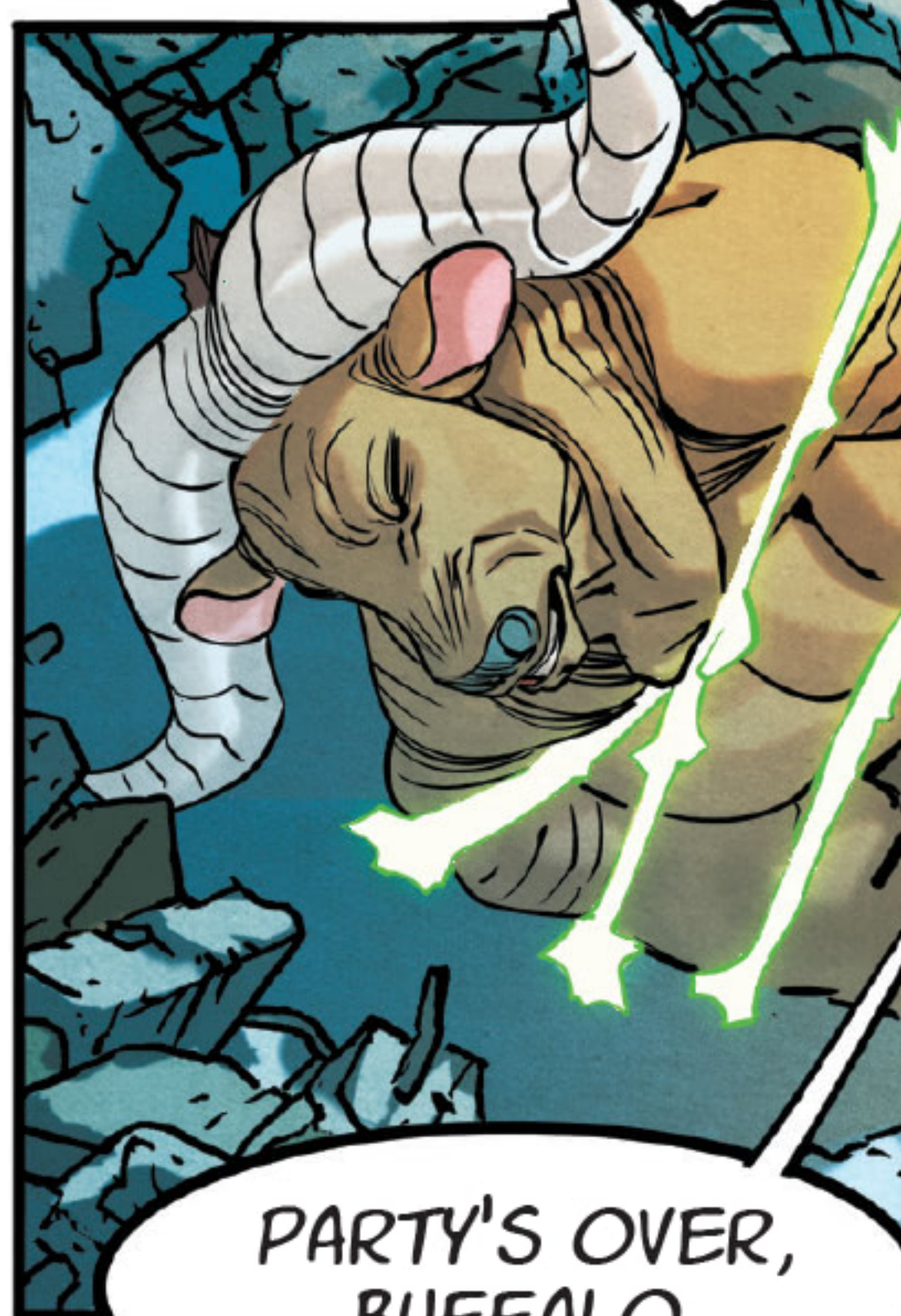
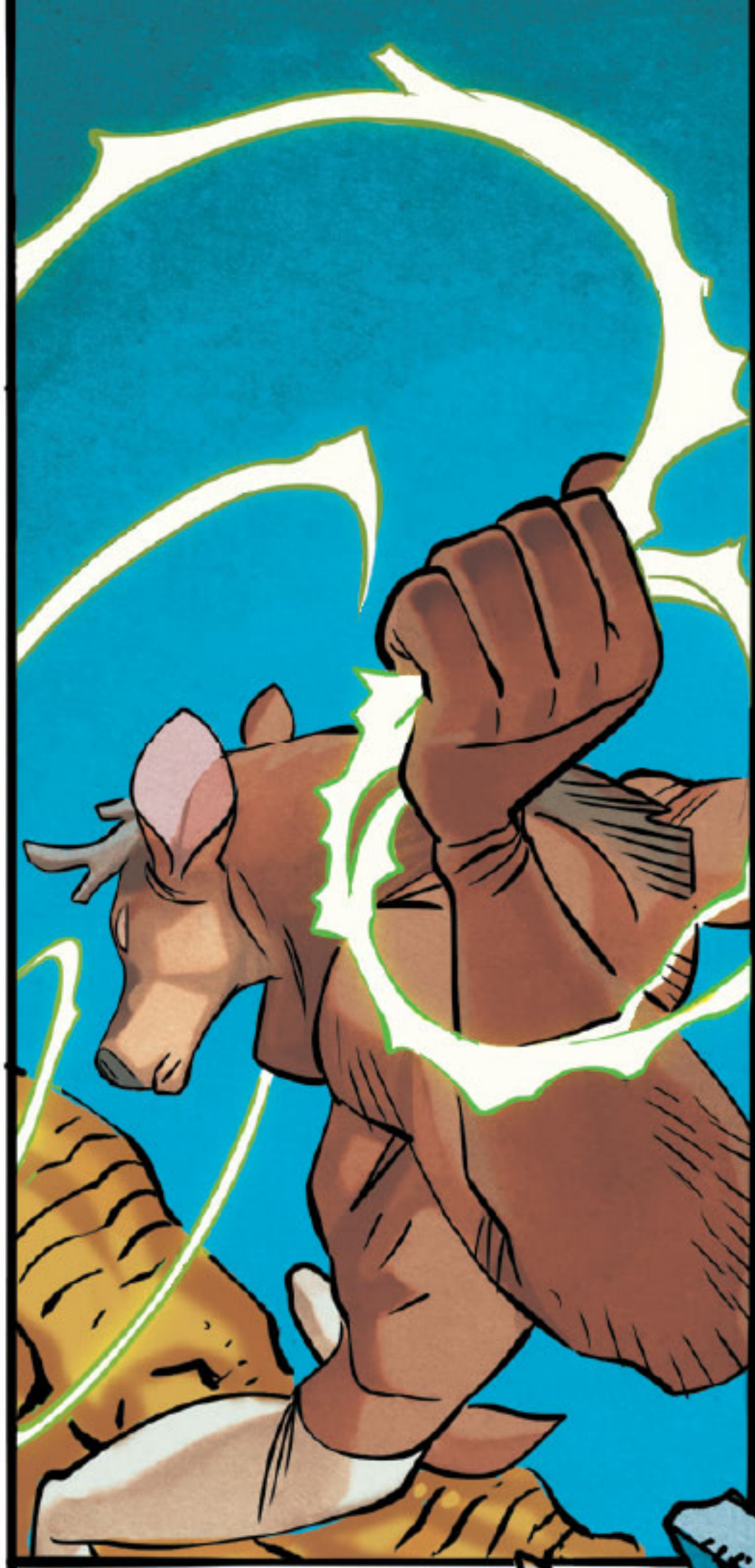
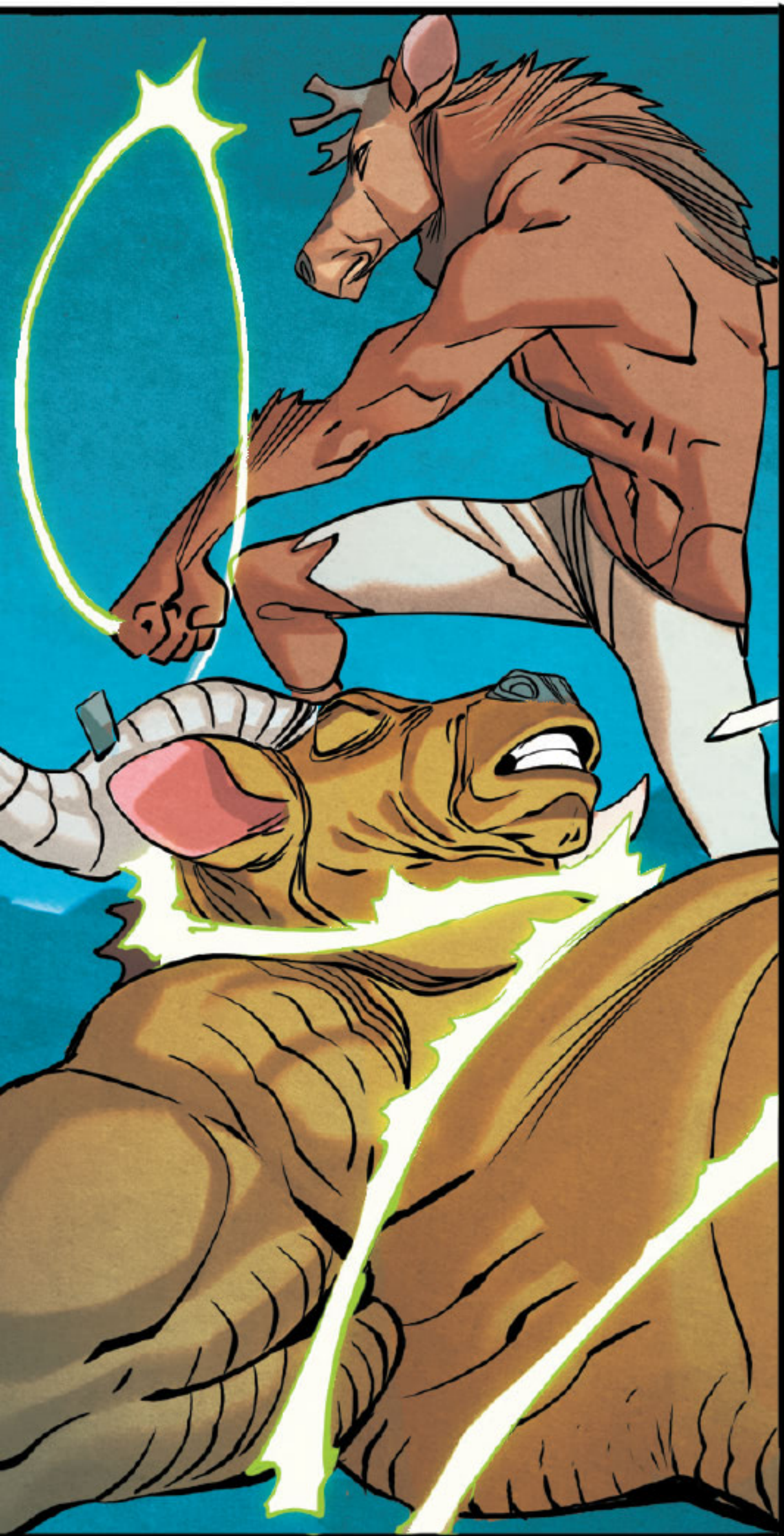
IT'S FIGHTING...

DON'T LET GO. IT MAY THINK YOUR BINOMIAL NEEDS IT MORE THAN YOU...

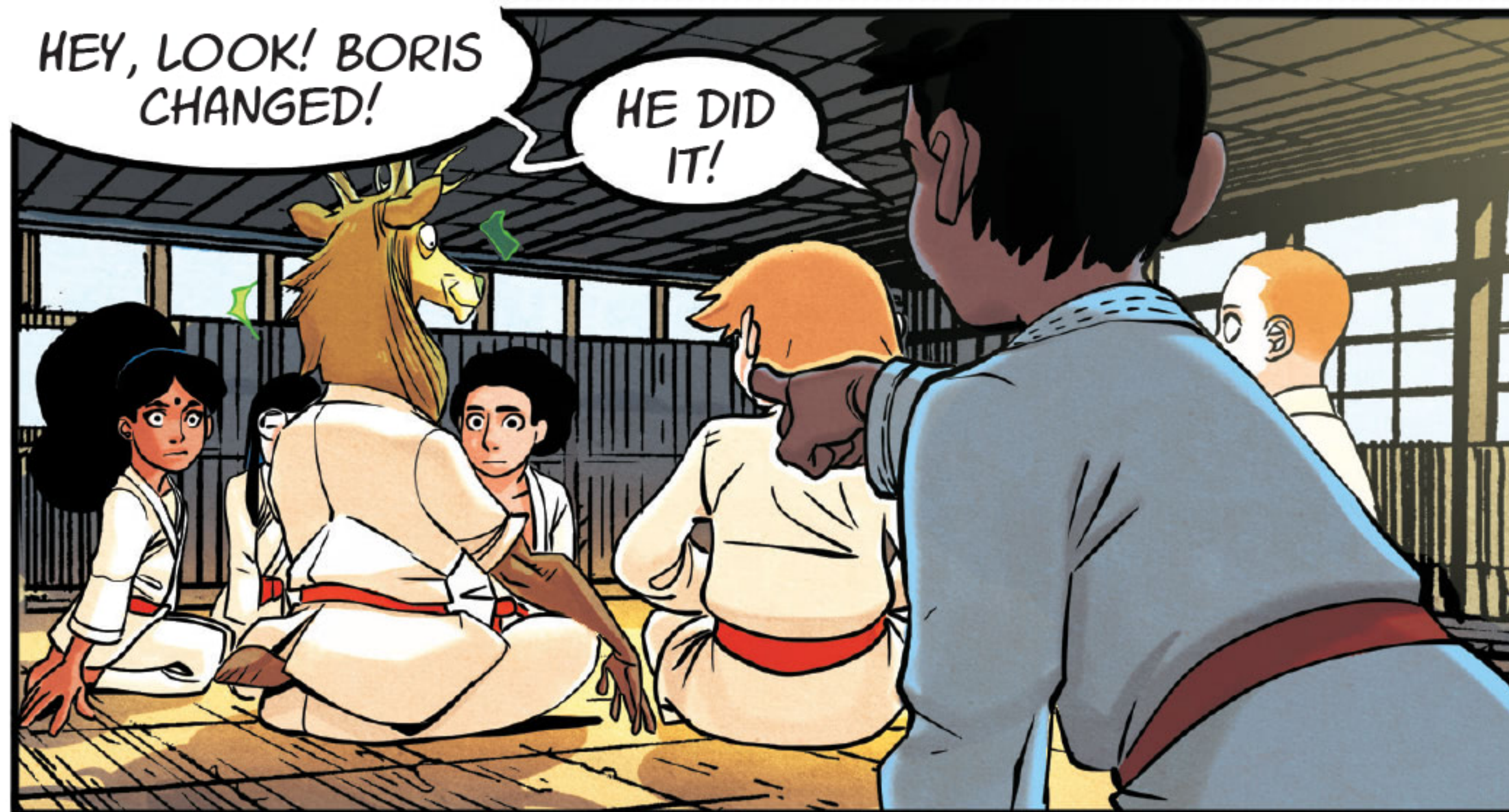


WELL DONE!





PARTY'S OVER,
BUFFALO.

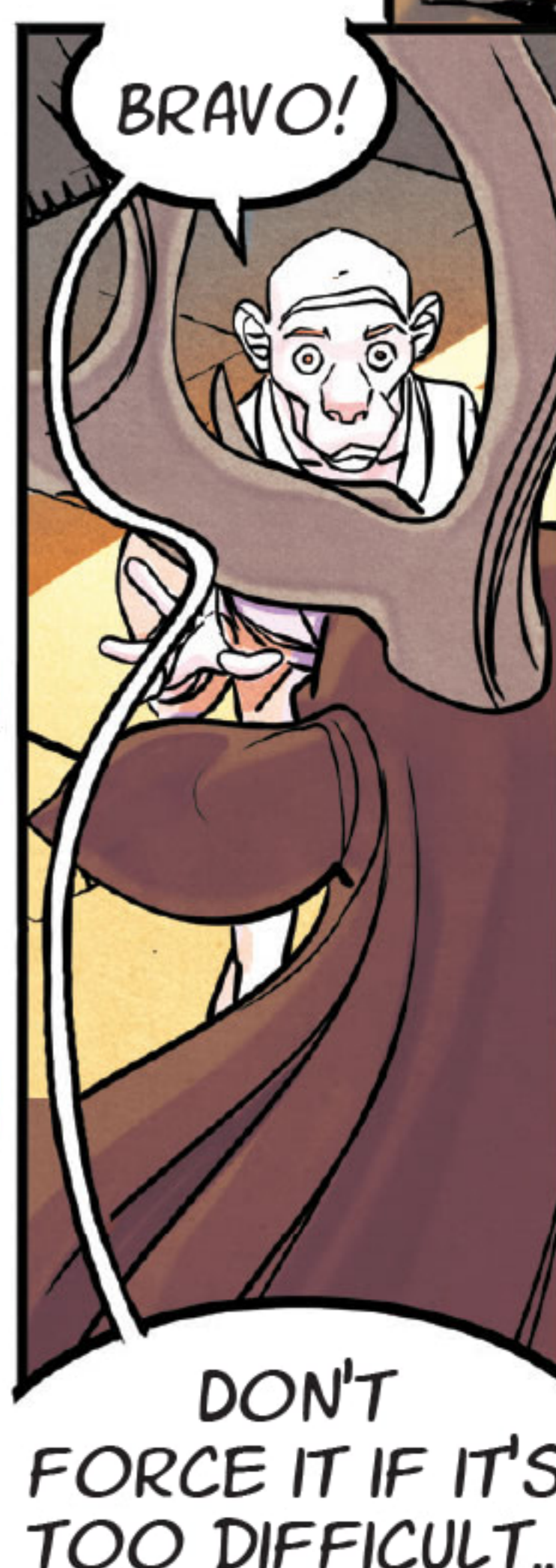
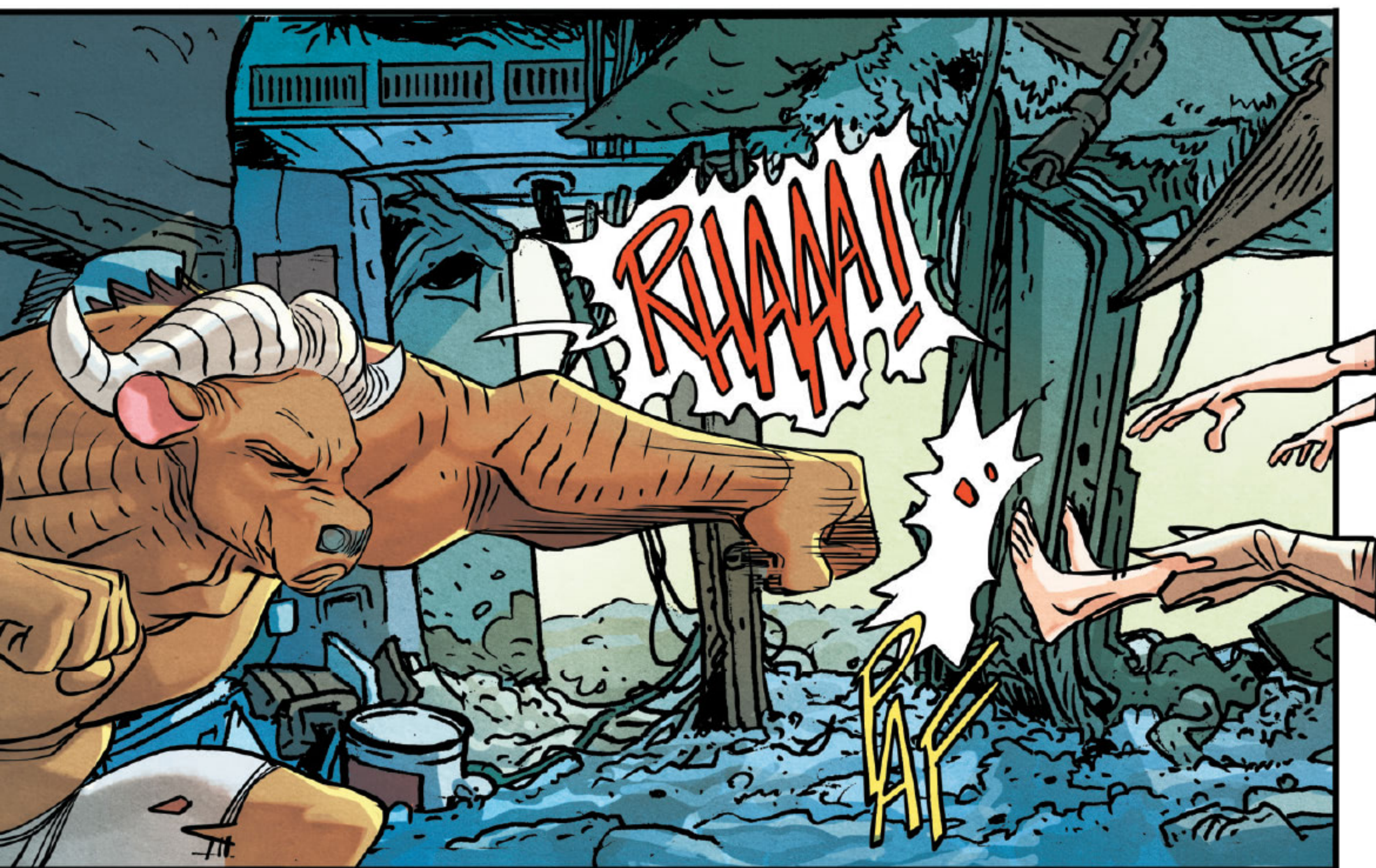


HEY, LOOK! BORIS
CHANGED!

HE DID
IT!



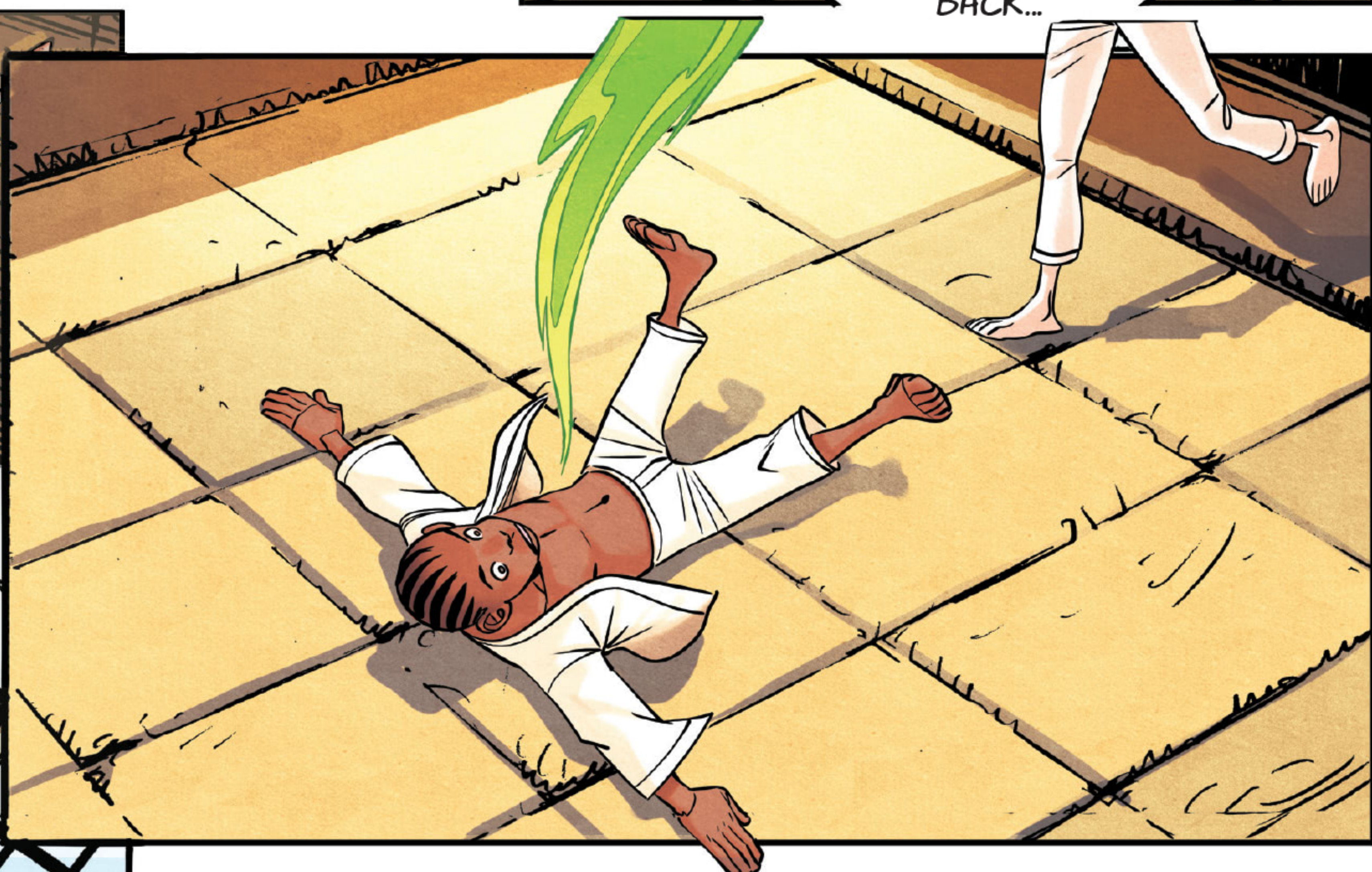
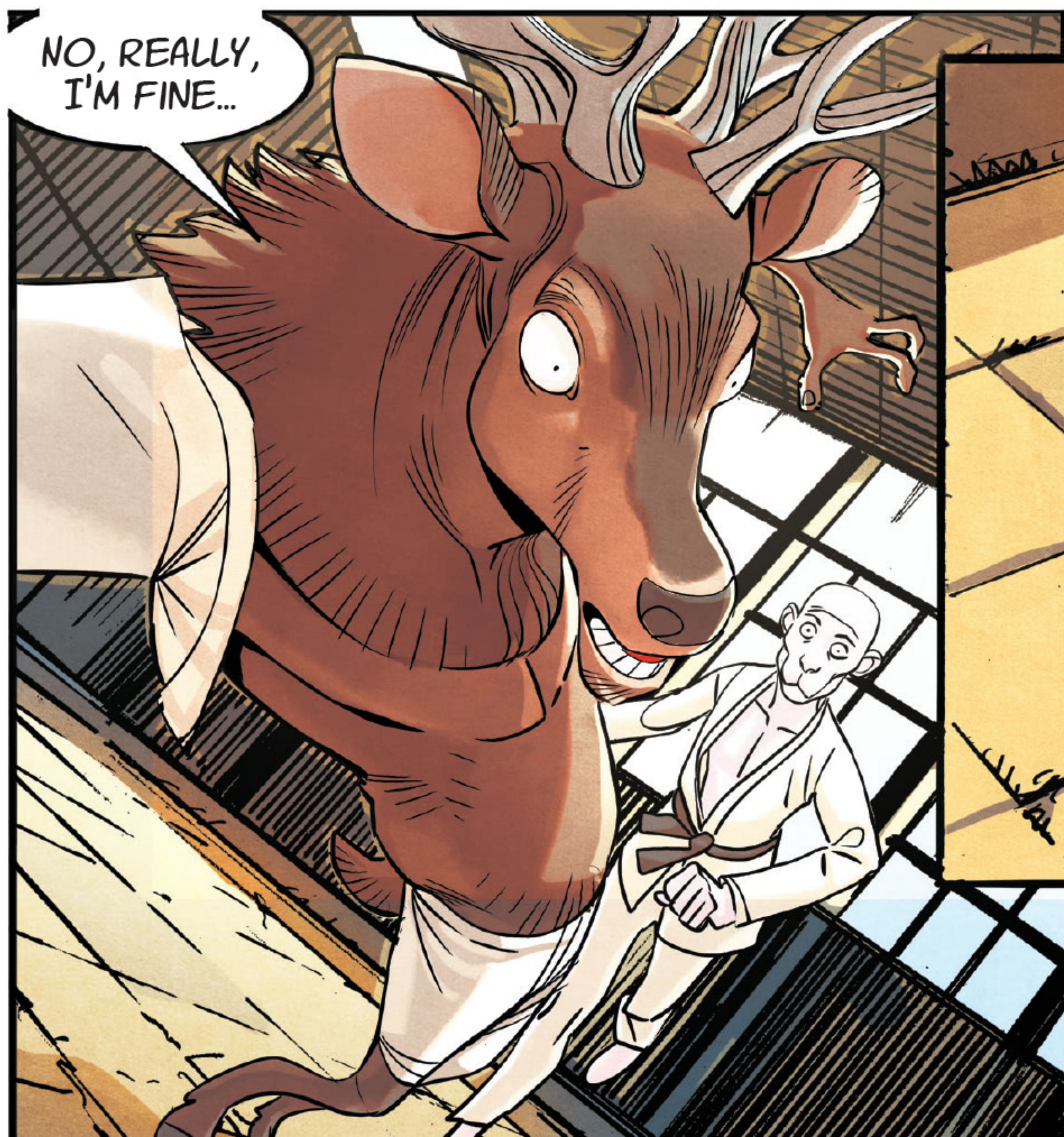
NO, IT'S OKAY!
LOOK AT ME!

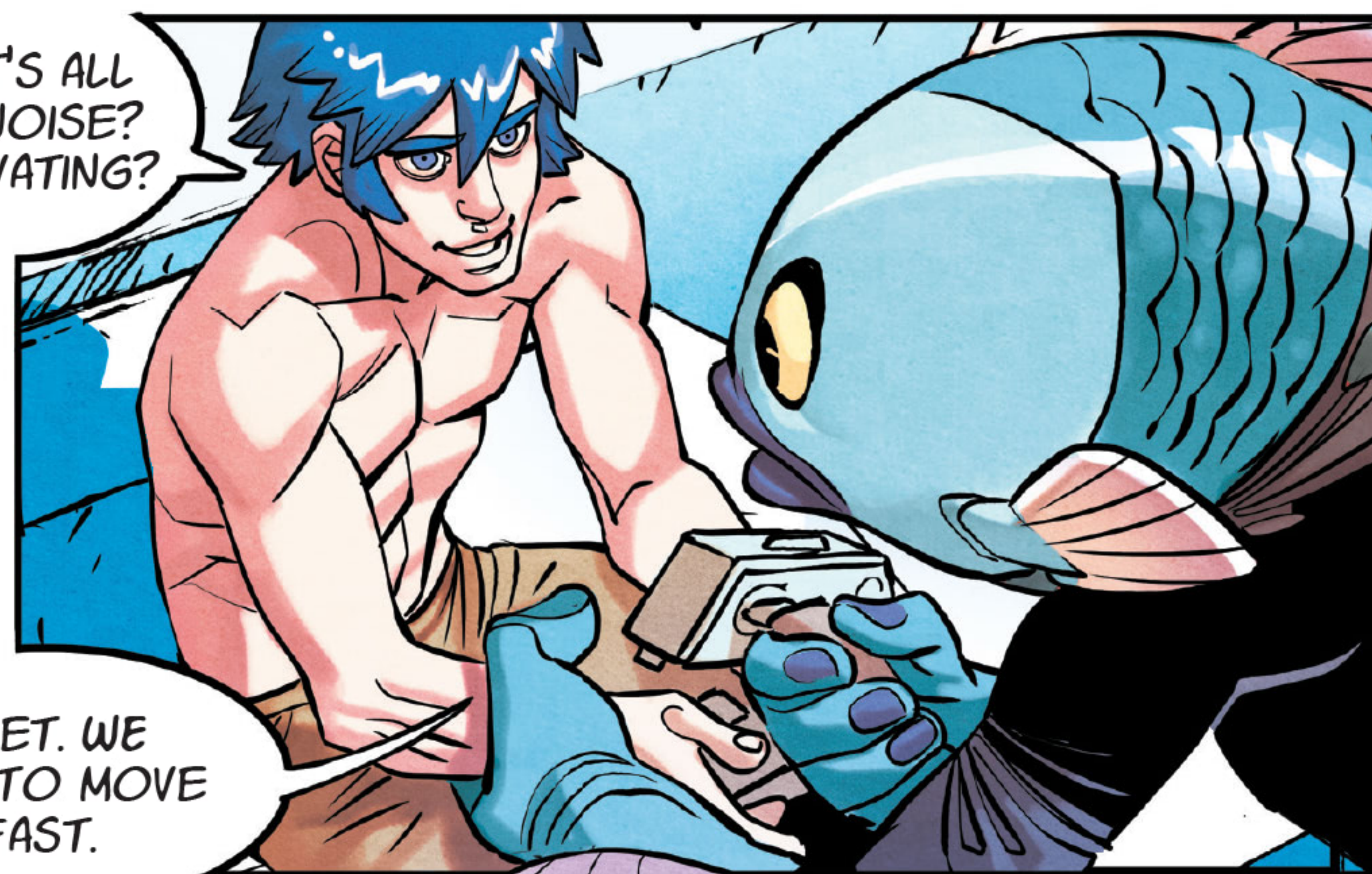
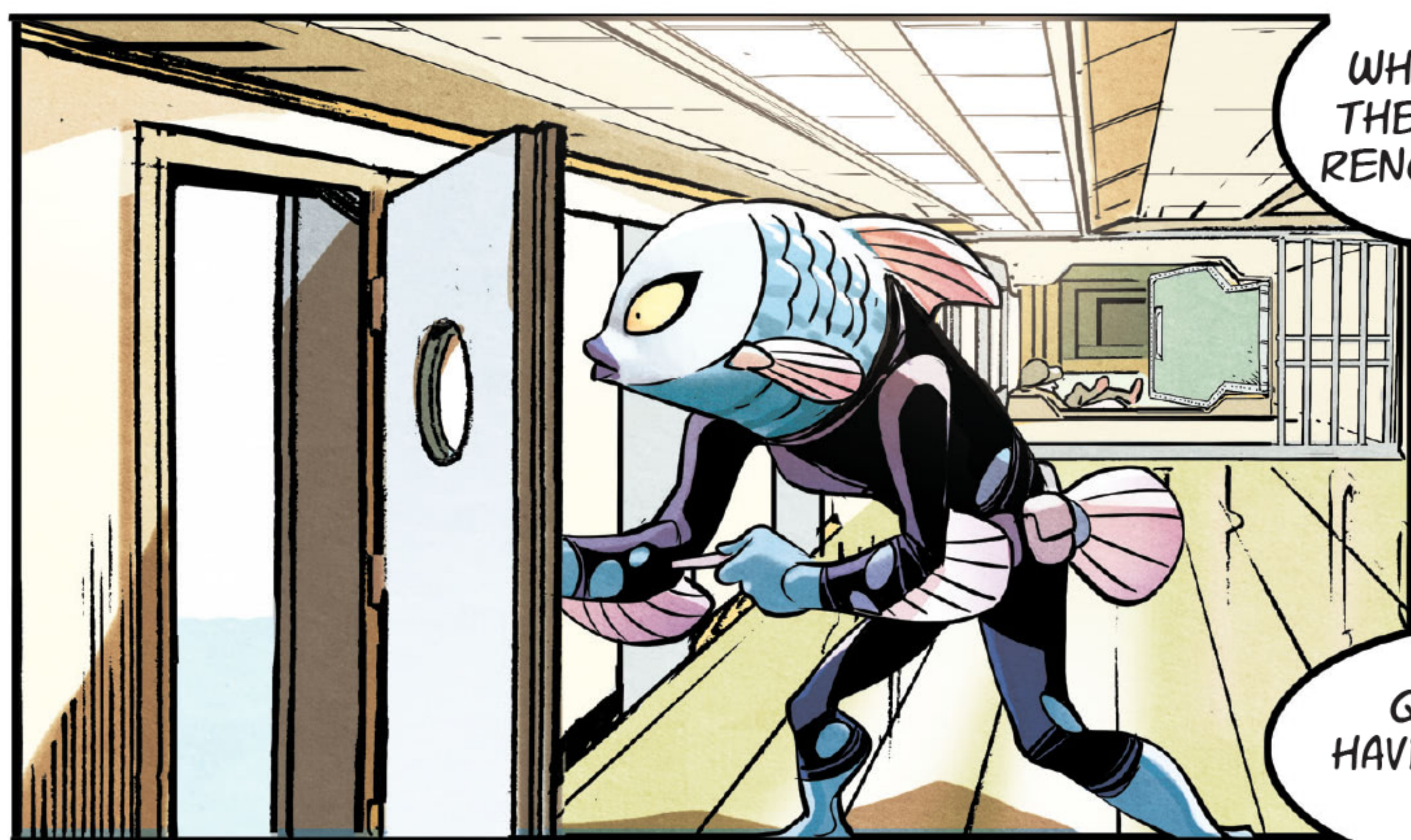
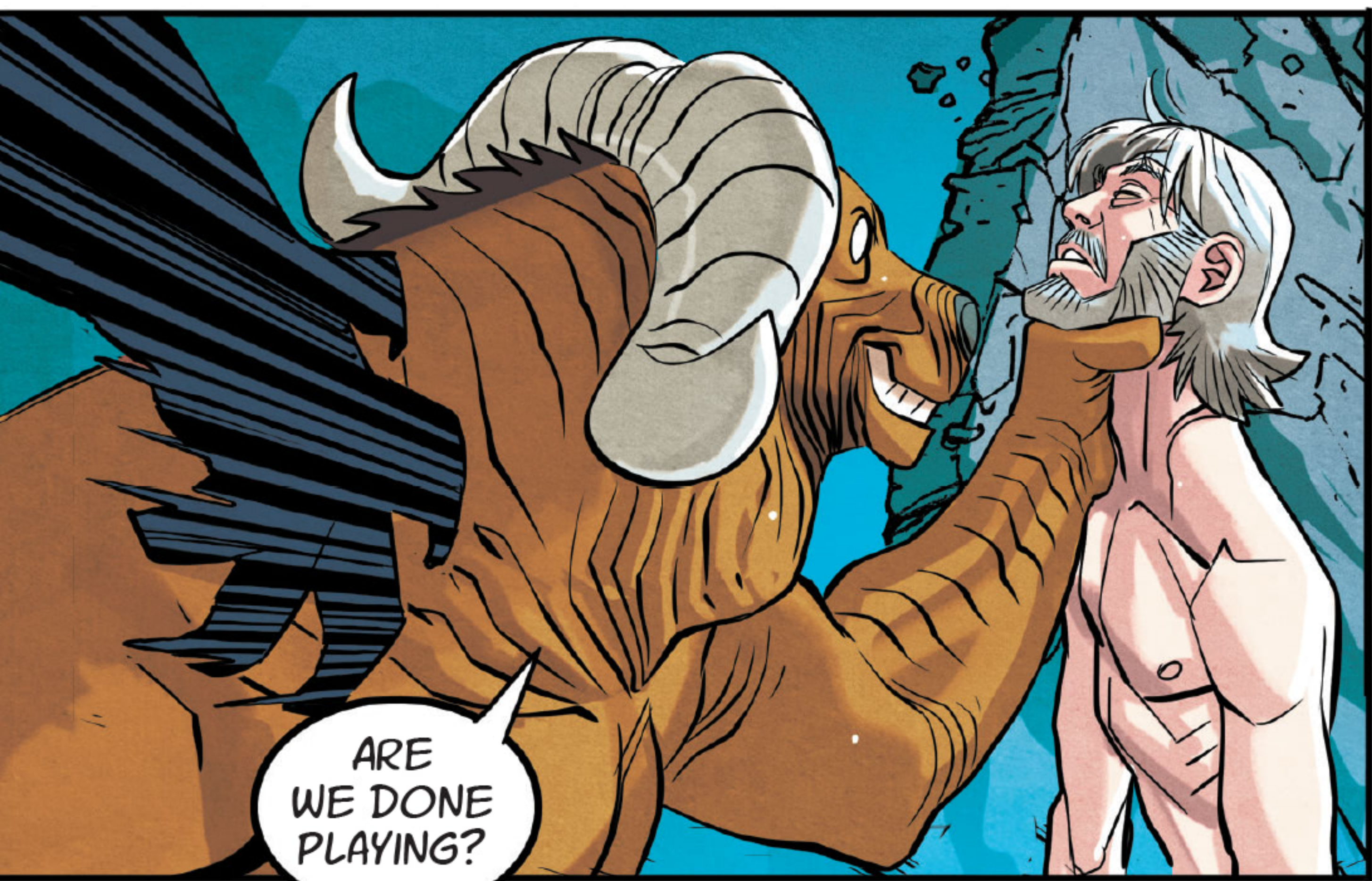


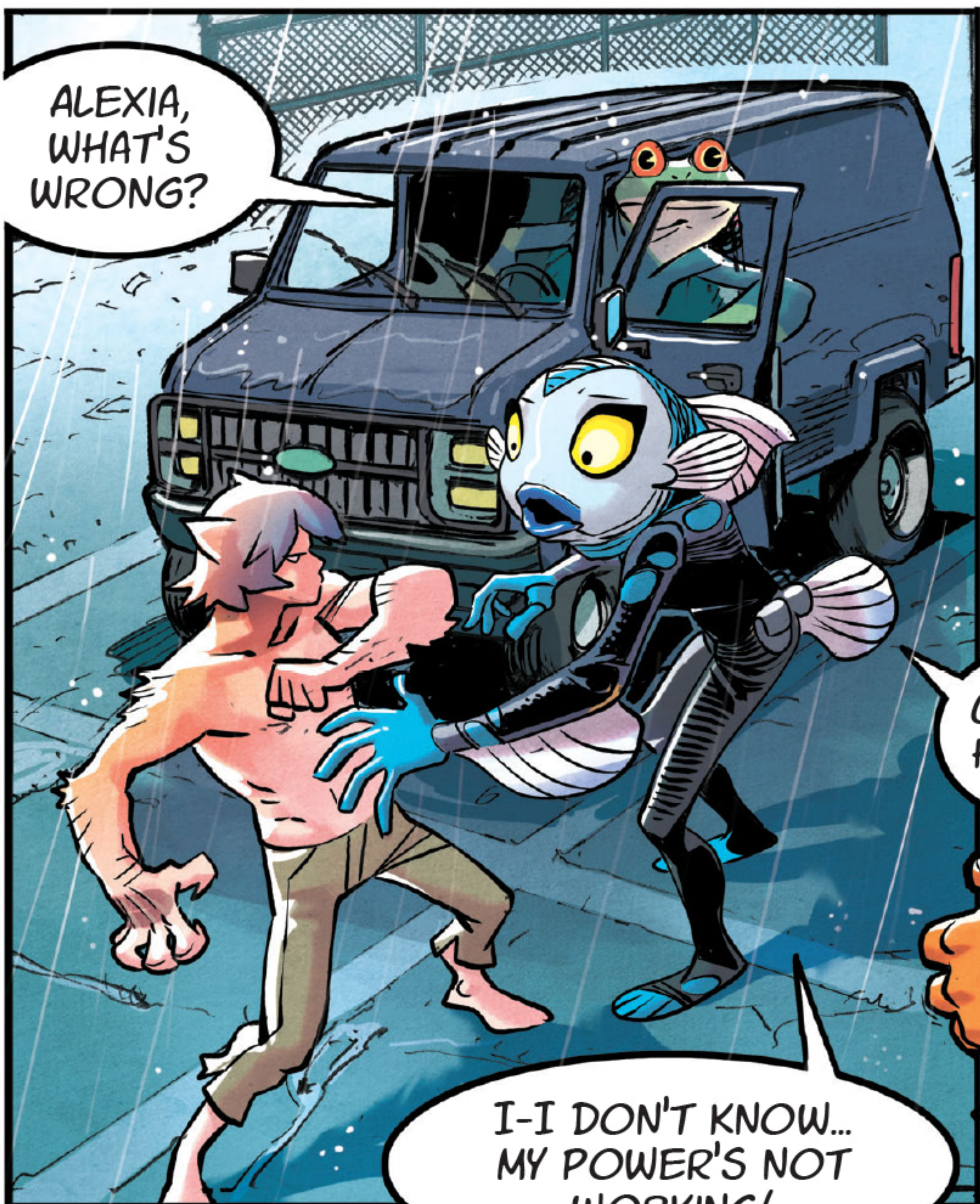
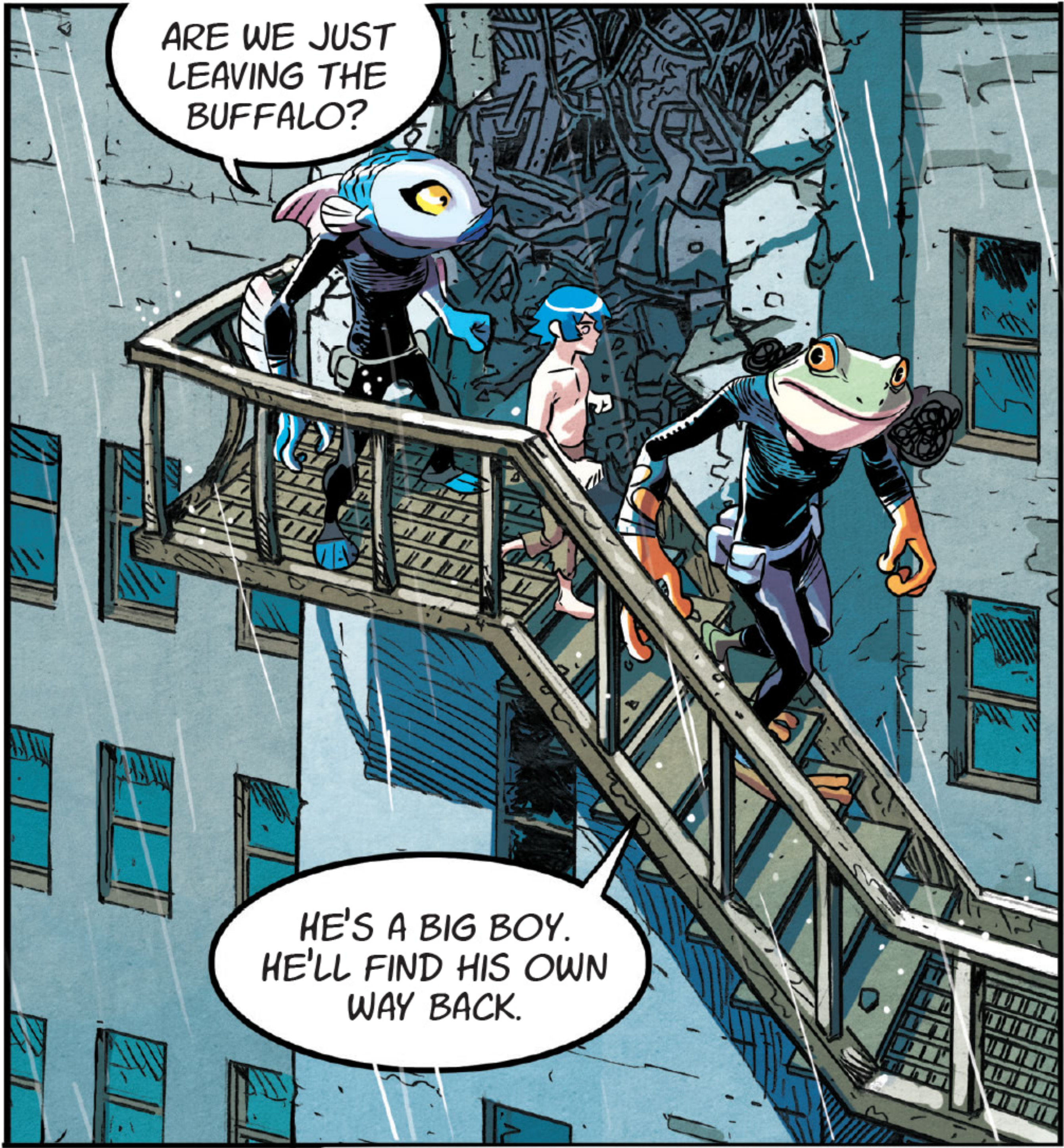
DON'T
FORCE IT IF IT'S
TOO DIFFICULT...

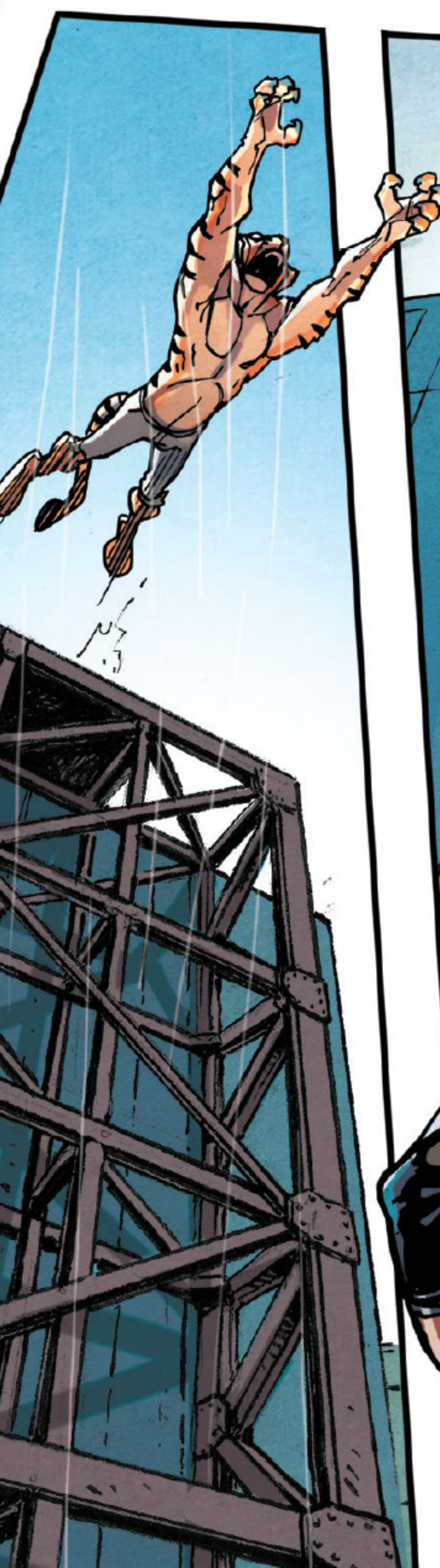
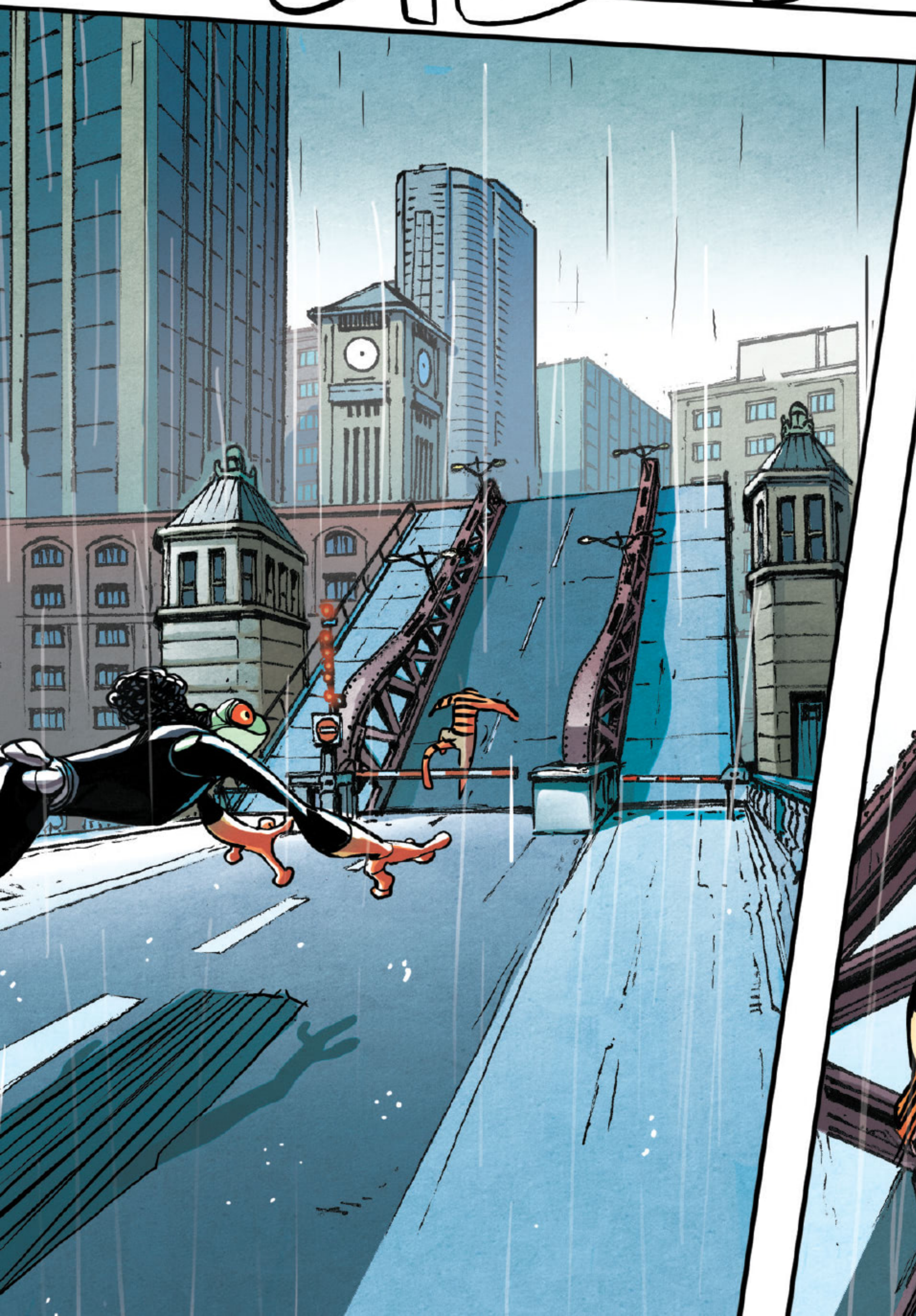
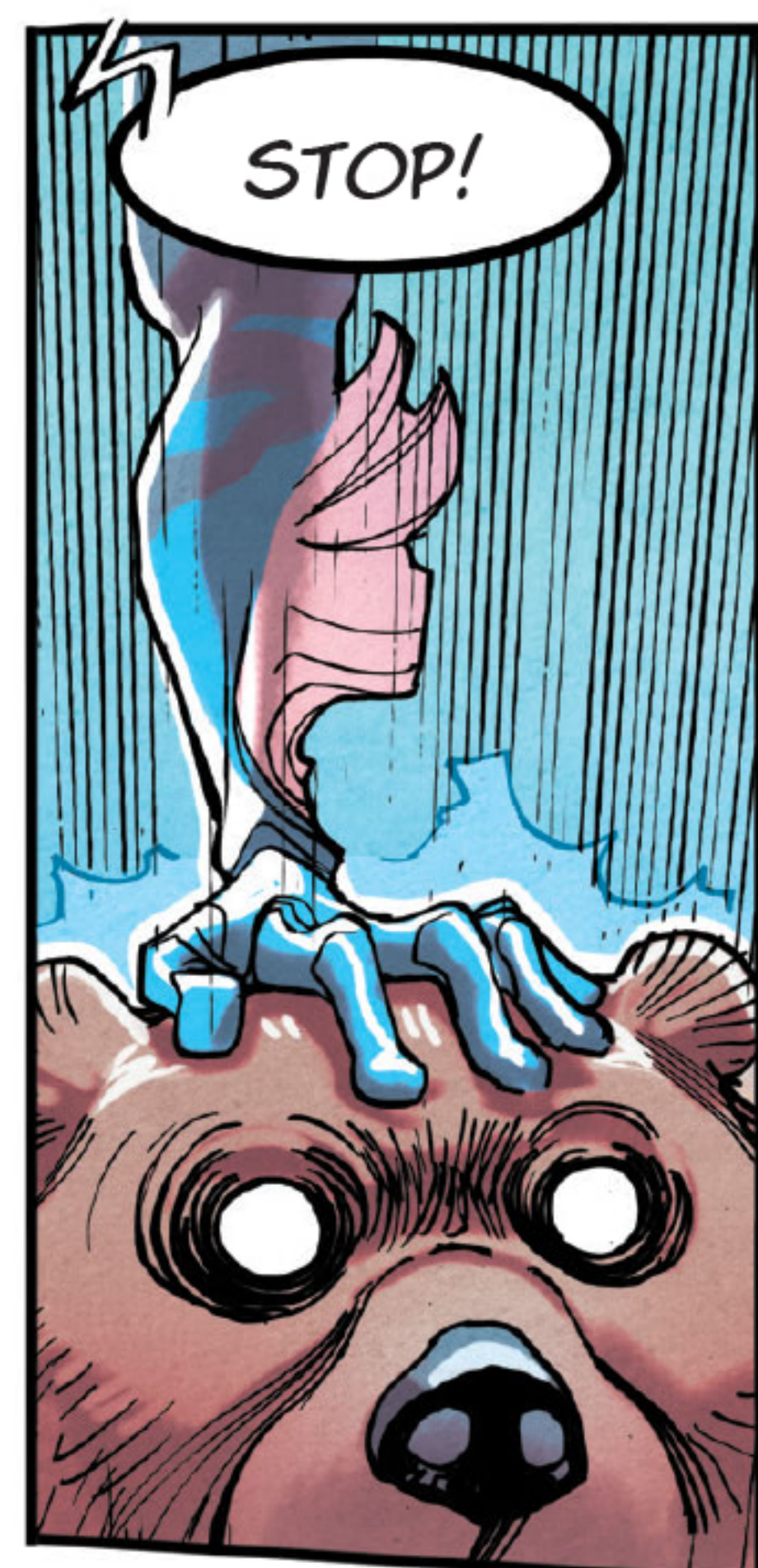
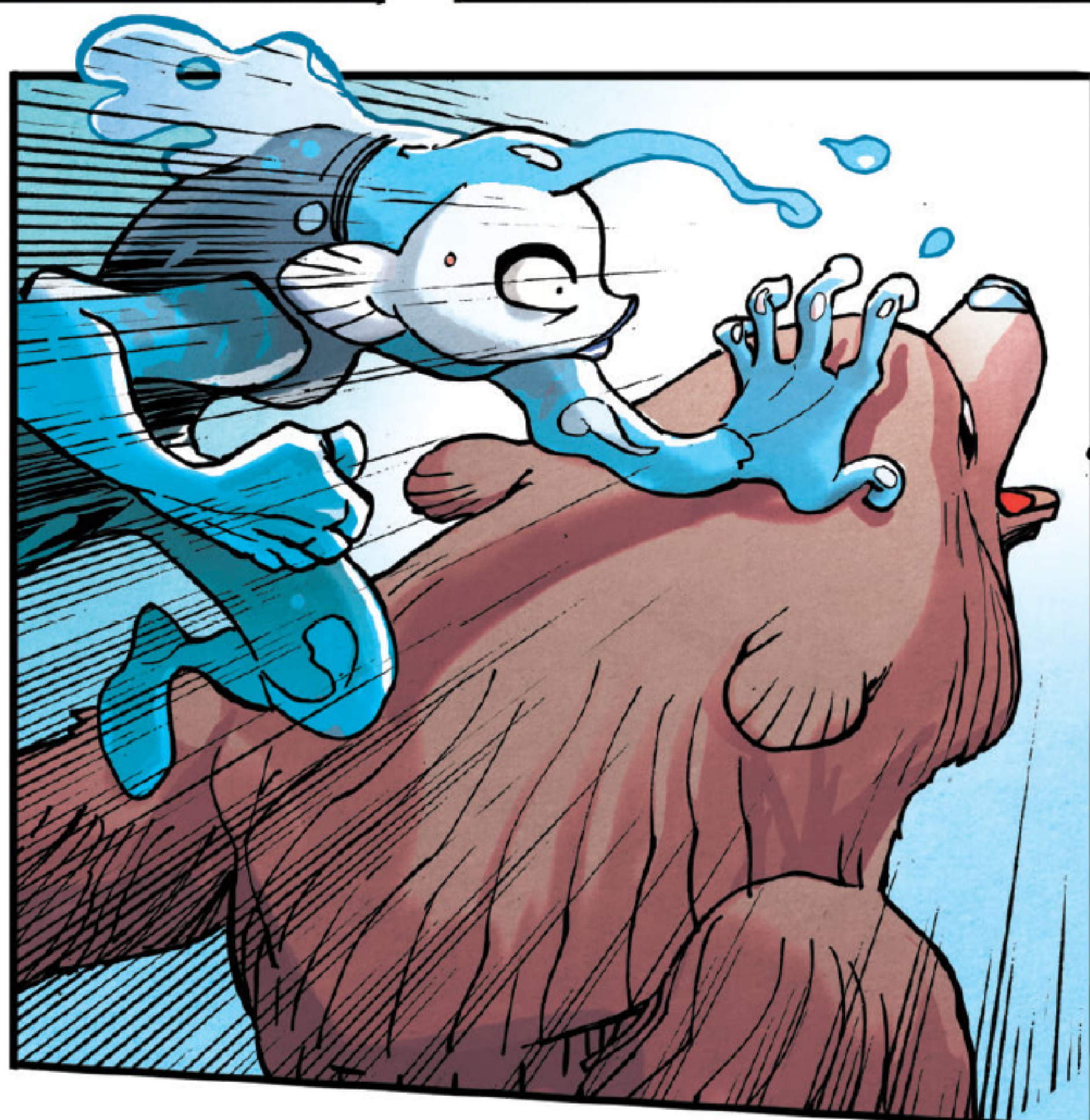
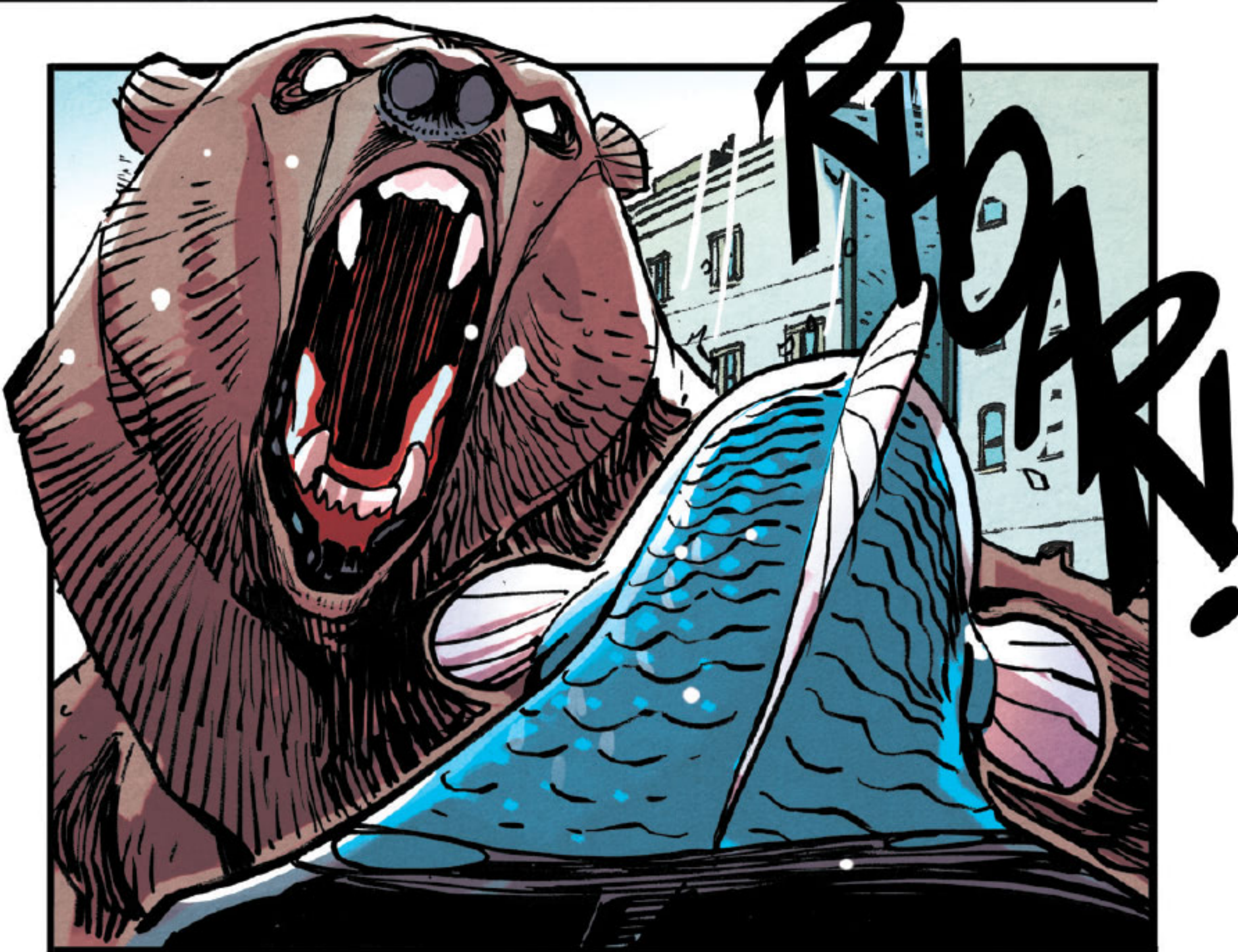


ALRIGHT.
NOW TRANSFORM
BACK...









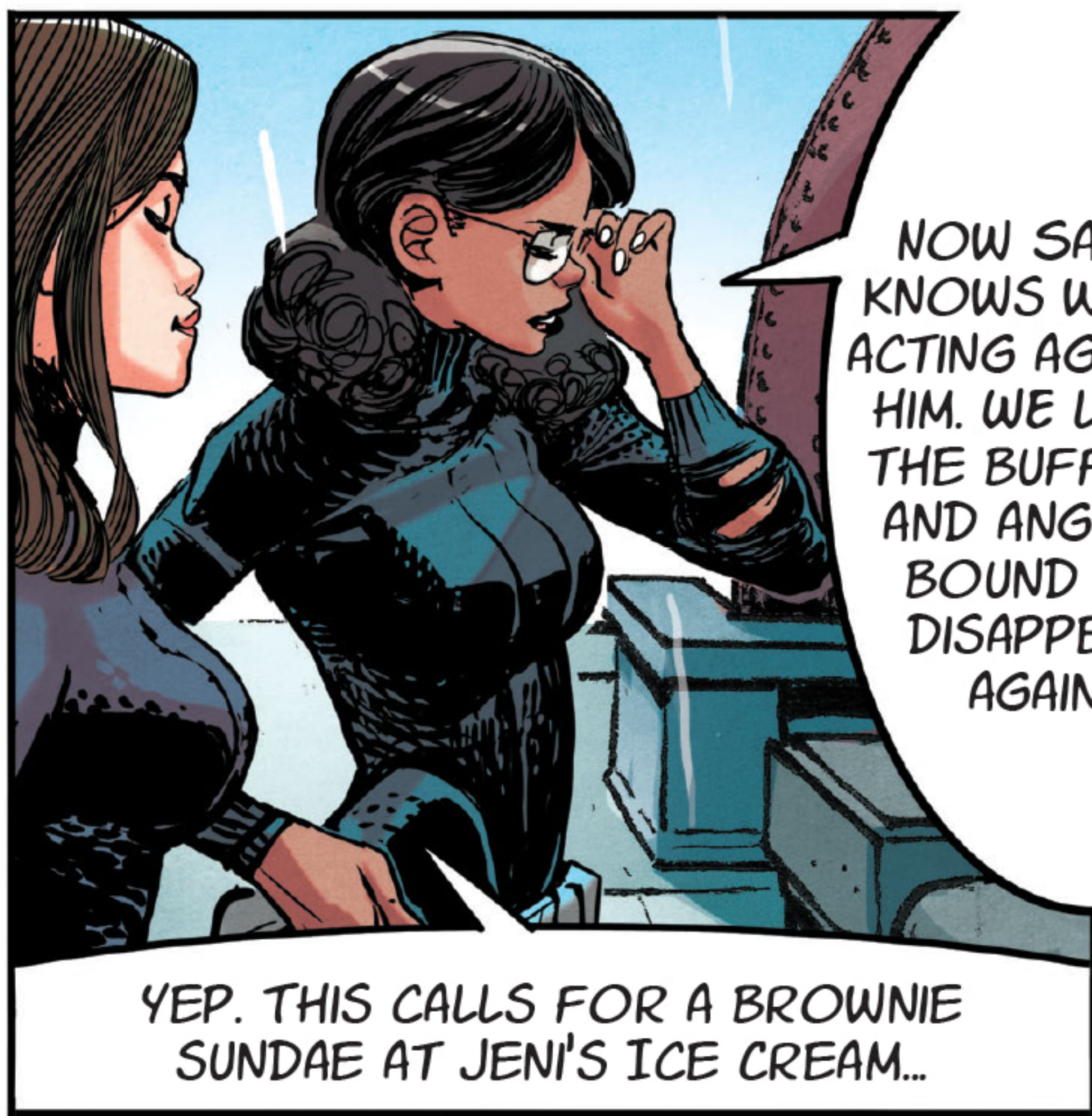


MELANIE?

WHERE'D
PRETTYBOY
GO?

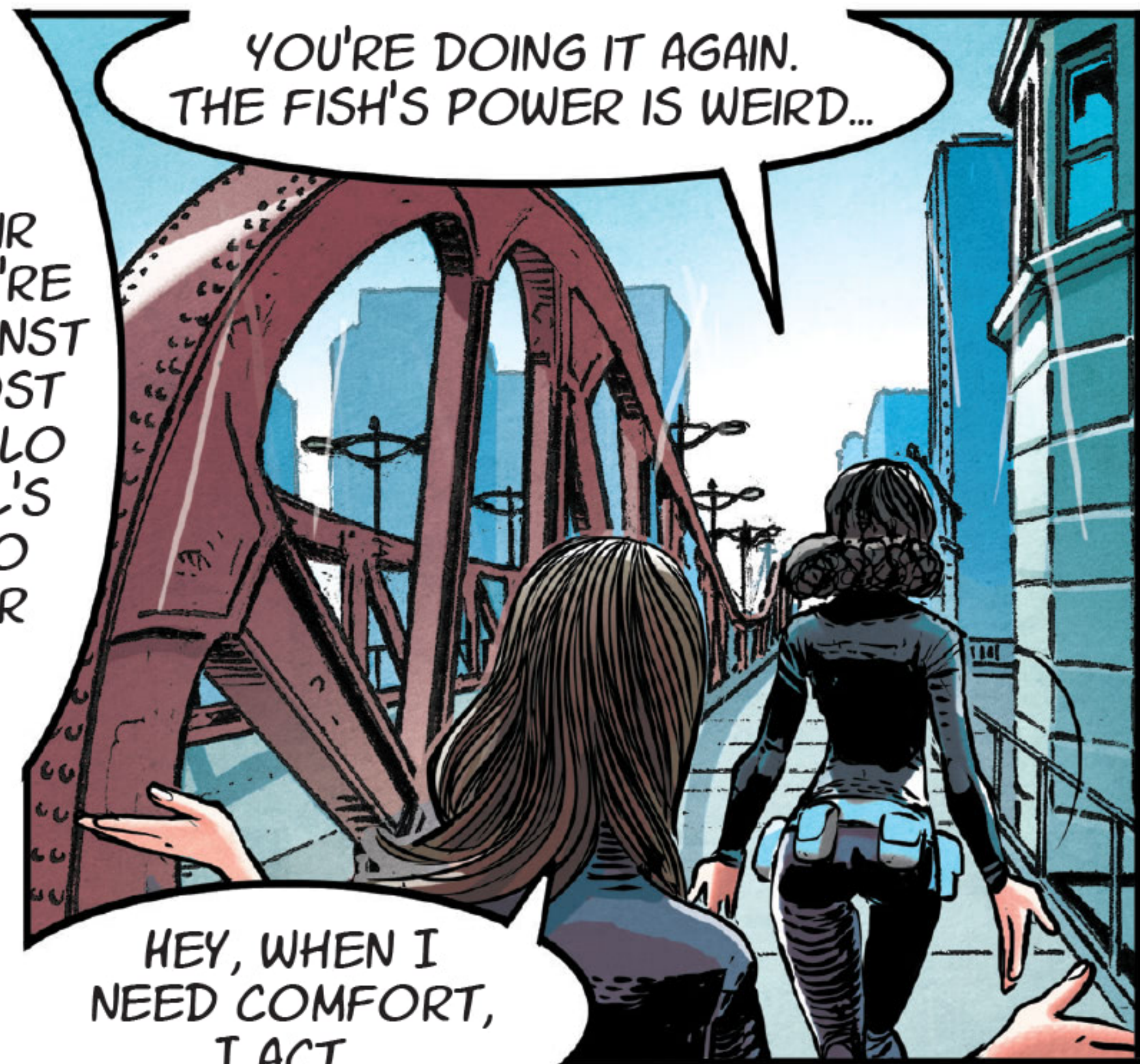
HE'S
GONE.

SHIT!



NOW SAMIR
KNOWS WE'RE
ACTING AGAINST
HIM. WE LOST
THE BUFFALO
AND ANGEL'S
BOUND TO
DISAPPEAR
AGAIN.

YEP. THIS CALLS FOR A BROWNIE
SUNDAE AT JENI'S ICE CREAM...



YOU'RE DOING IT AGAIN.
THE FISH'S POWER IS WEIRD...

HEY, WHEN I
NEED COMFORT,
I ACT...



...AND NOW
BROWNIES
ARE ON
ME!

LIKE I HAVE A
CHOICE?

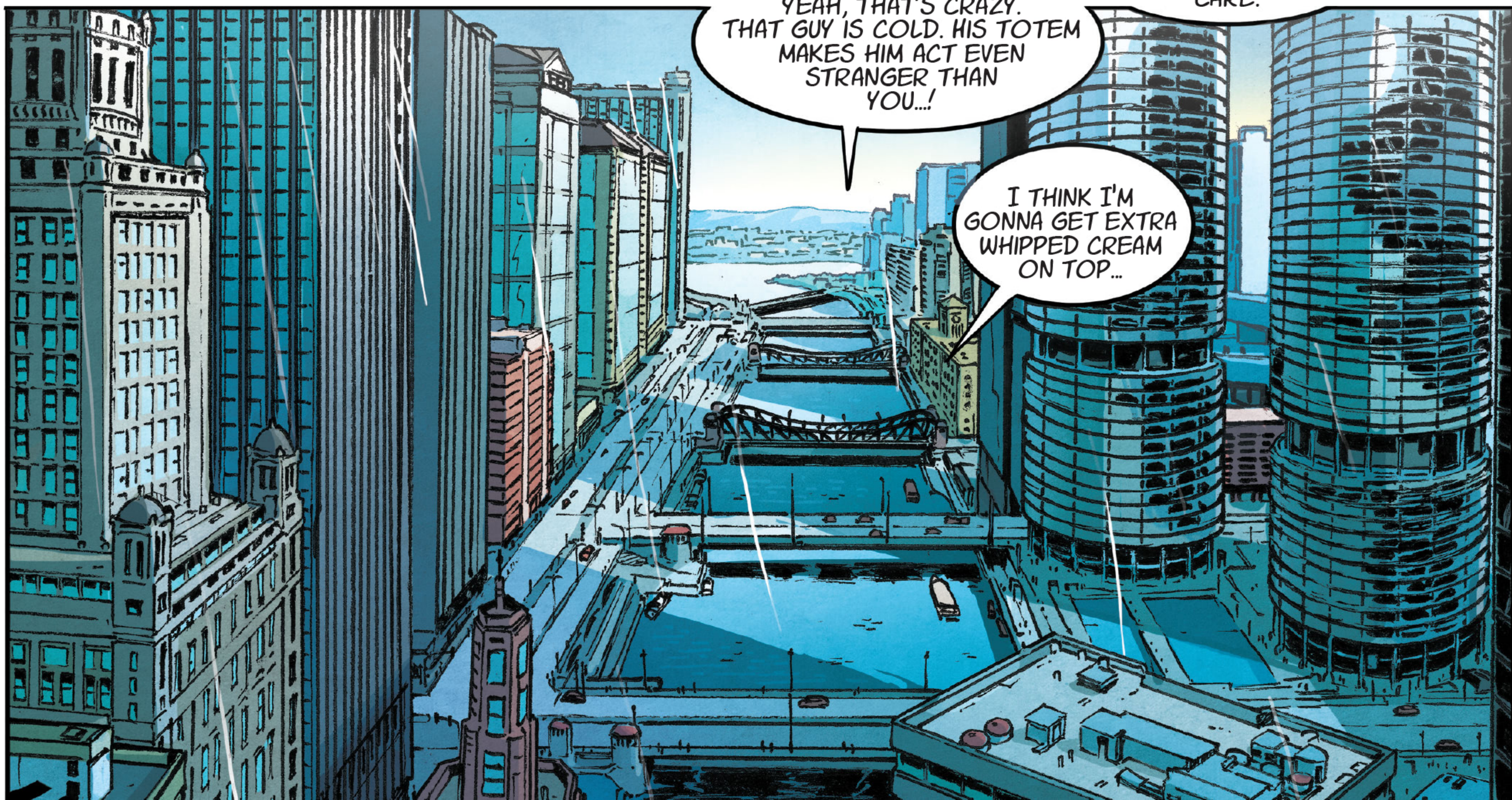


CURIOUS WHY MY POWER
DIDN'T WORK ON ANGEL,
THOUGH...

YEAH...
STRANGE.

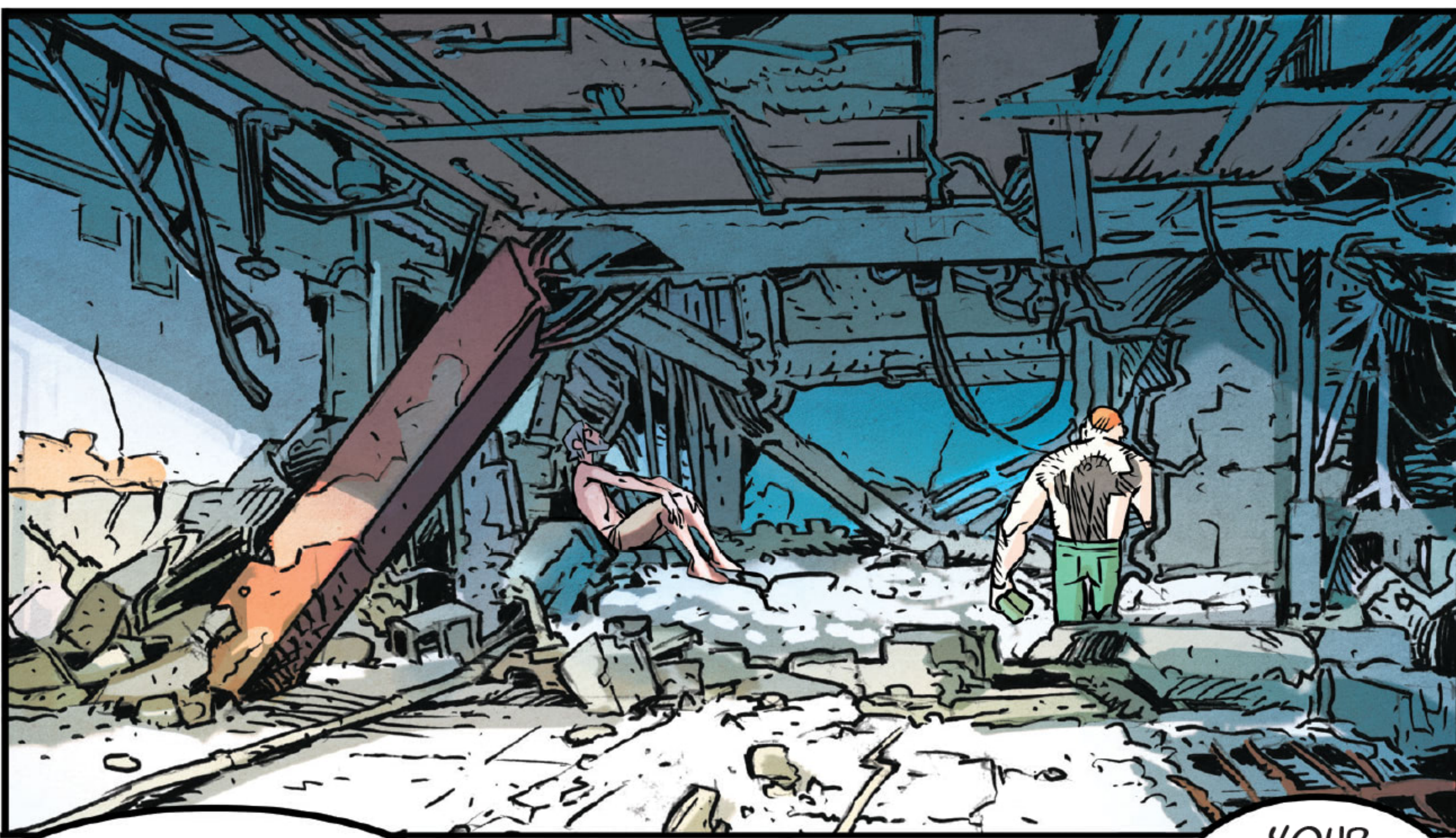
WHEN I FREED HIM, HE
DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT
SAVING HIS FRIENDS...

...LIKE HE DIDN'T
CARE.



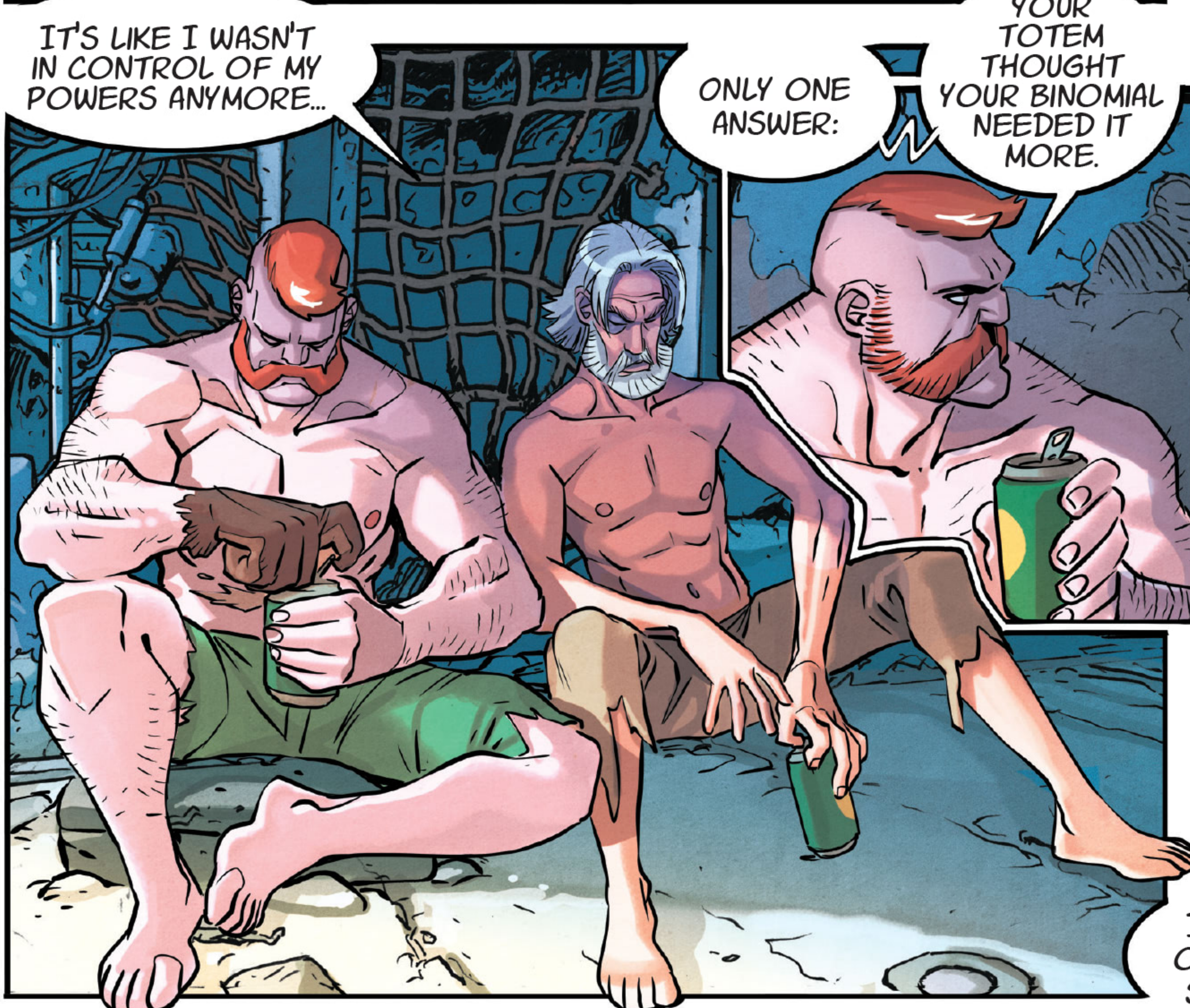
YEAH, THAT'S CRAZY.
THAT GUY IS COLD. HIS TOTEM
MAKES HIM ACT EVEN
STRANGER THAN
YOU...!

I THINK I'M
GONNA GET EXTRA
WHIPPED CREAM
ON TOP...



BEER?

THANKS.



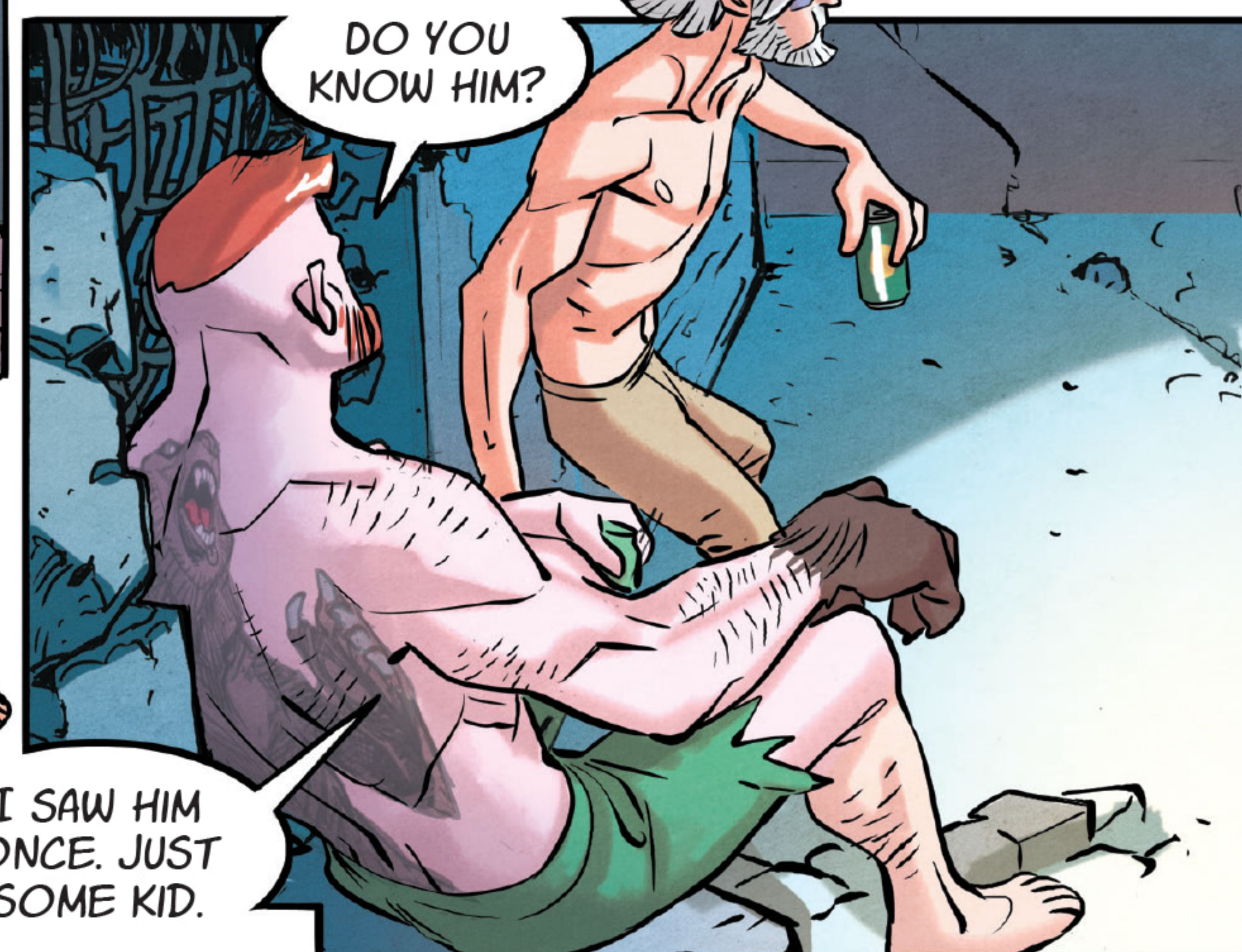
IT'S LIKE I WASN'T
IN CONTROL OF MY
POWERS ANYMORE...

ONLY ONE
ANSWER:

YOUR
TOTEM
THOUGHT
YOUR BINOMIAL
NEEDED IT
MORE.

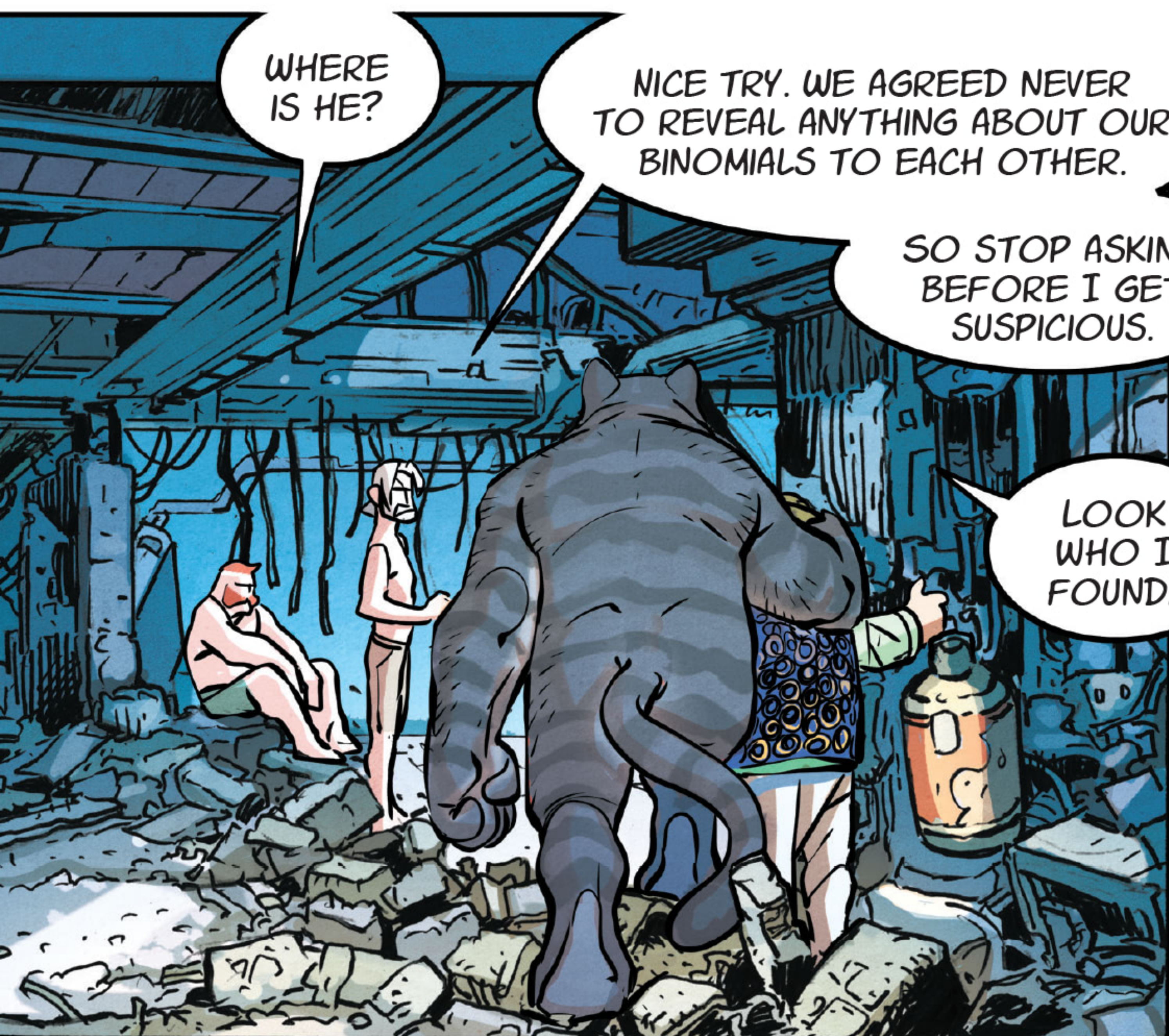


IN THE MIDDLE
OF A FIGHT? NO
WAY.



DO YOU
KNOW HIM?

I SAW HIM
ONCE. JUST
SOME KID.



WHERE
IS HE?

NICE TRY. WE AGREED NEVER
TO REVEAL ANYTHING ABOUT OUR
BINOMIALS TO EACH OTHER.

SO STOP ASKING
BEFORE I GET
SUSPICIOUS.

LOOK
WHO I
FOUND!



AARON WAS BY
THE CELLS. HE WAS
ATTACKED BY THE
FROG.

THOSE
TRAITORS!

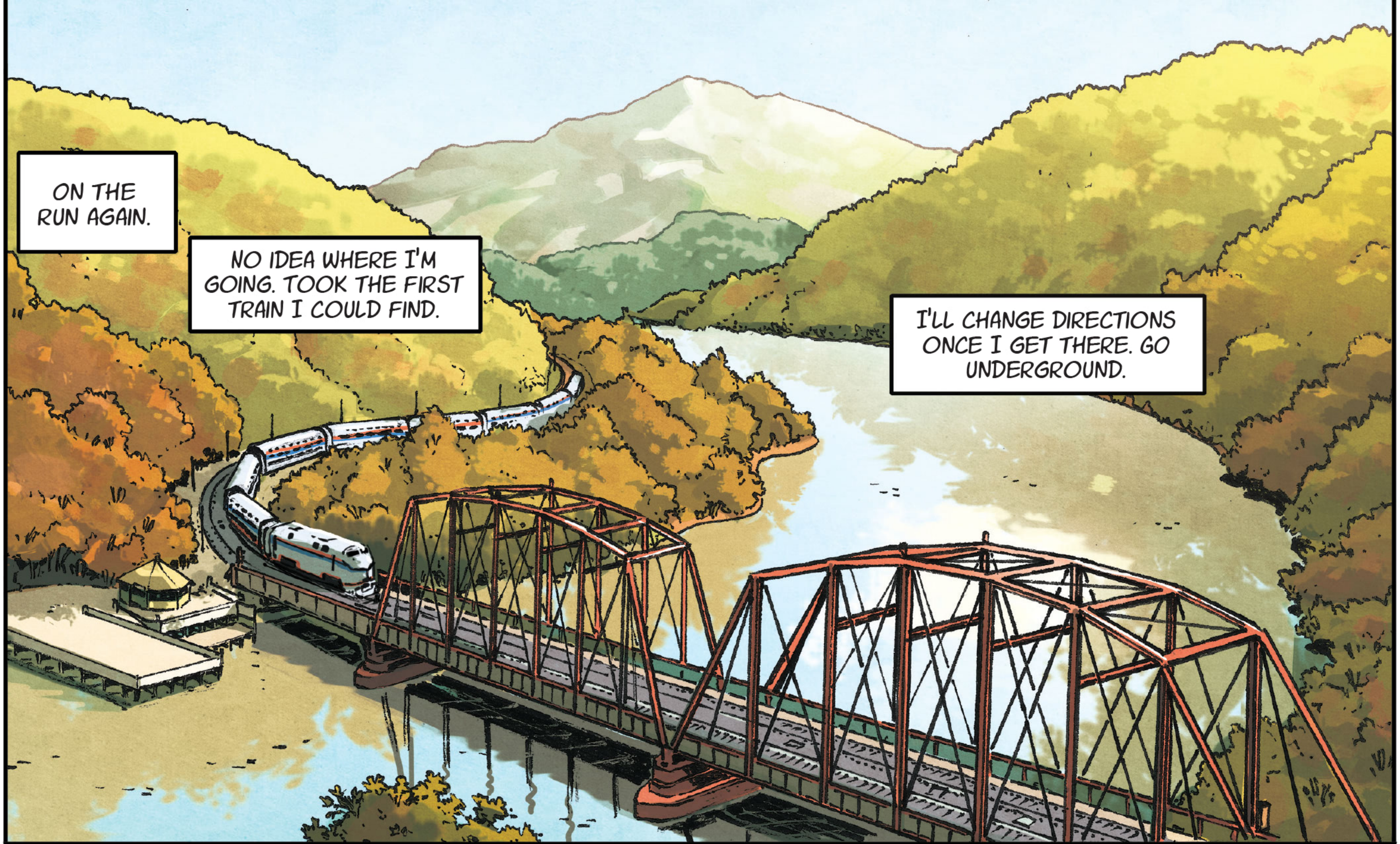


IT WON'T BE EASY TO FIND
THEM... NONE OF US KNOW
WHERE THEY ARE.

EXCEPT MAYBE
NEIL. THE SHEEP KNOWS
HOW TO FIND THINGS...



WE HAVEN'T
SEEN NEIL IN A
WHILE...



ON THE
RUN AGAIN.

NO IDEA WHERE I'M
GOING. TOOK THE FIRST
TRAIN I COULD FIND.

I'LL CHANGE DIRECTIONS
ONCE I GET THERE. GO
UNDERGROUND.

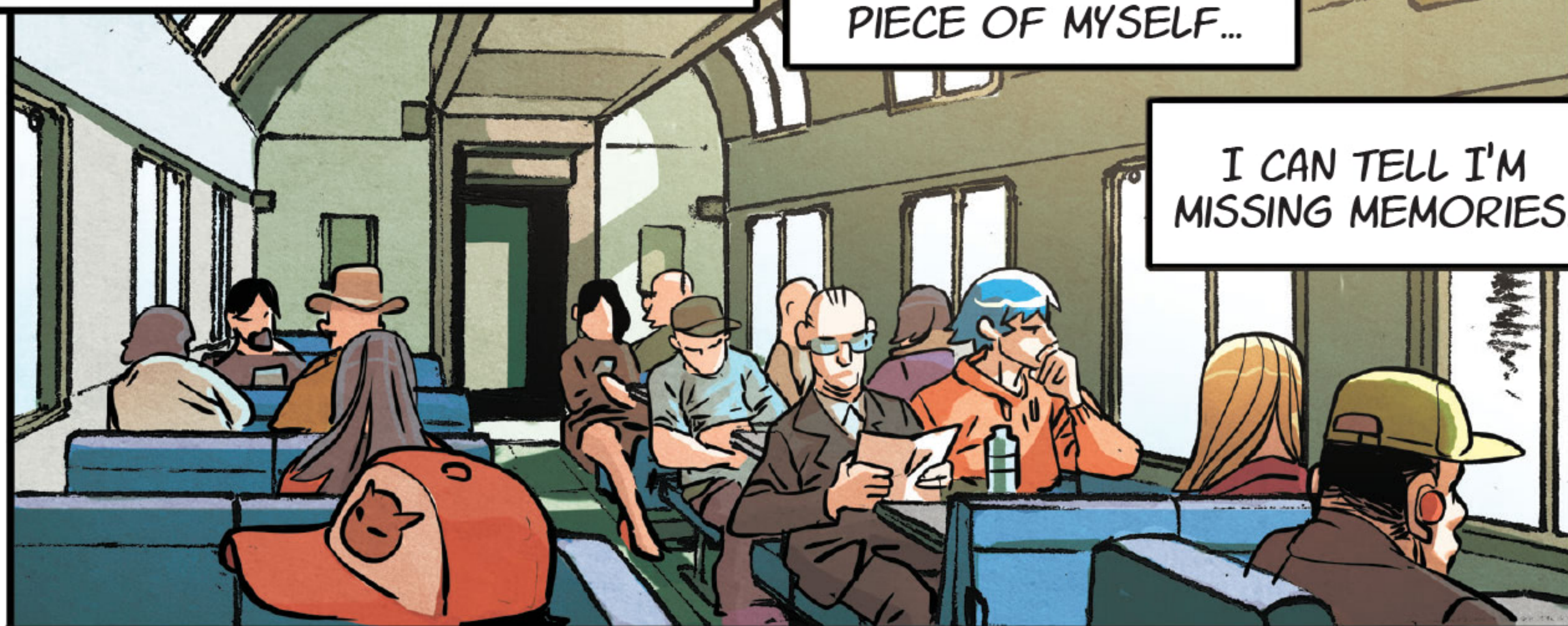
I'M LOST. IT'D BE FUNNY IF I DIDN'T
FEEL SO LOST ON THE INSIDE...

...LIKE I'VE LOST A
PIECE OF MYSELF...

I CAN TELL I'M
MISSING MEMORIES.

BUT I REMEMBER
EWA AND PAULA.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO
CONTACT THEM, BUT I
REMEMBER THEM.



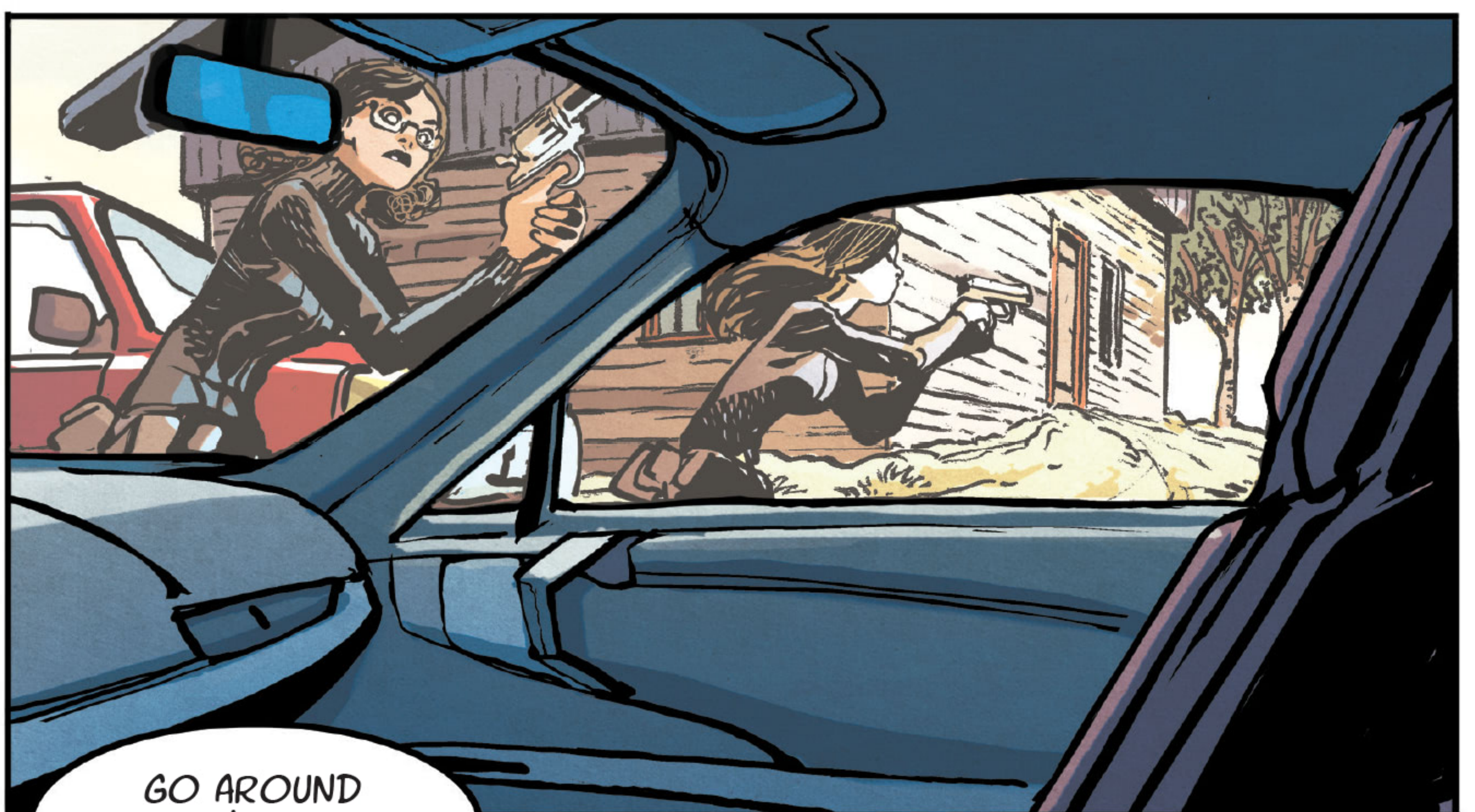
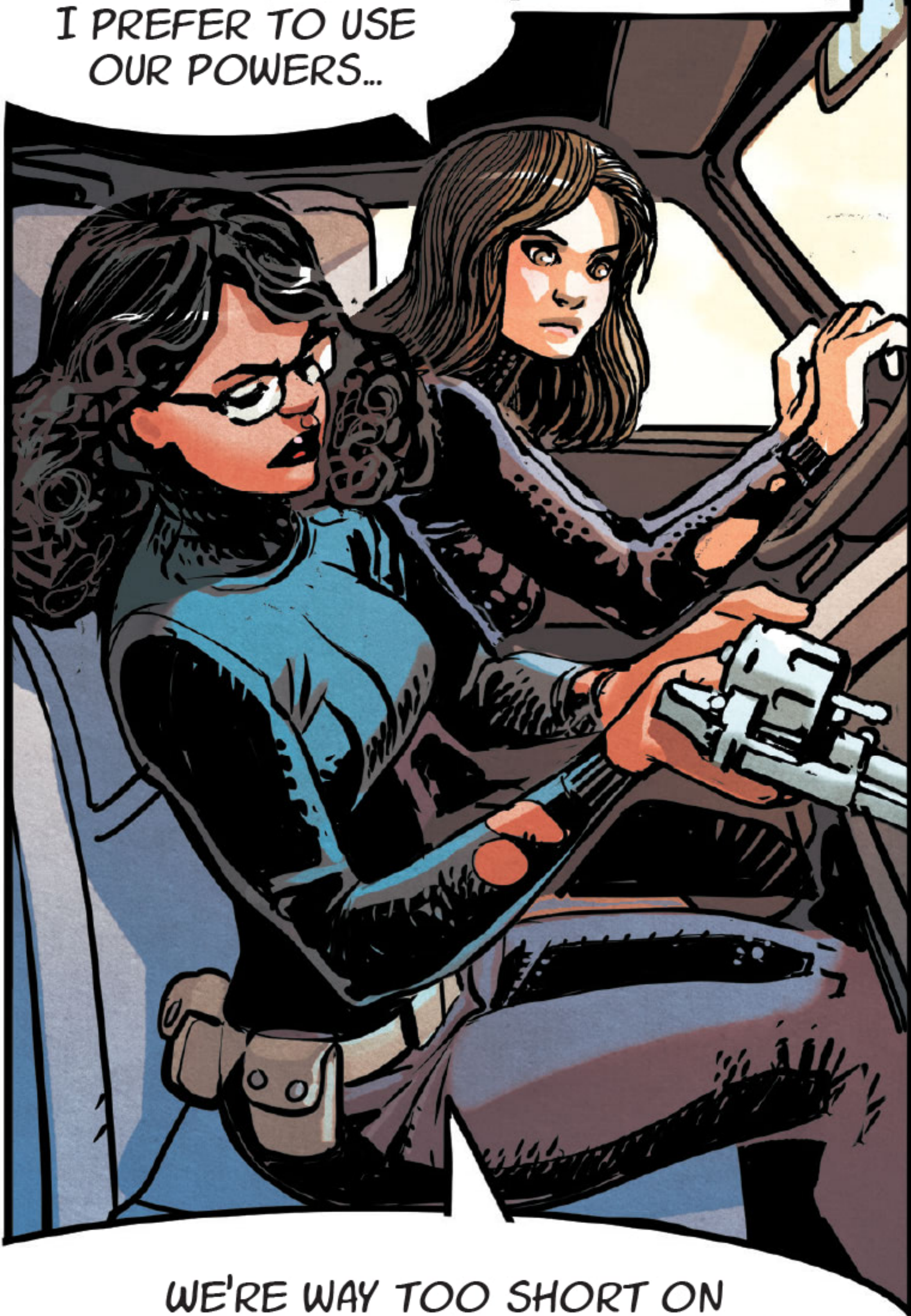
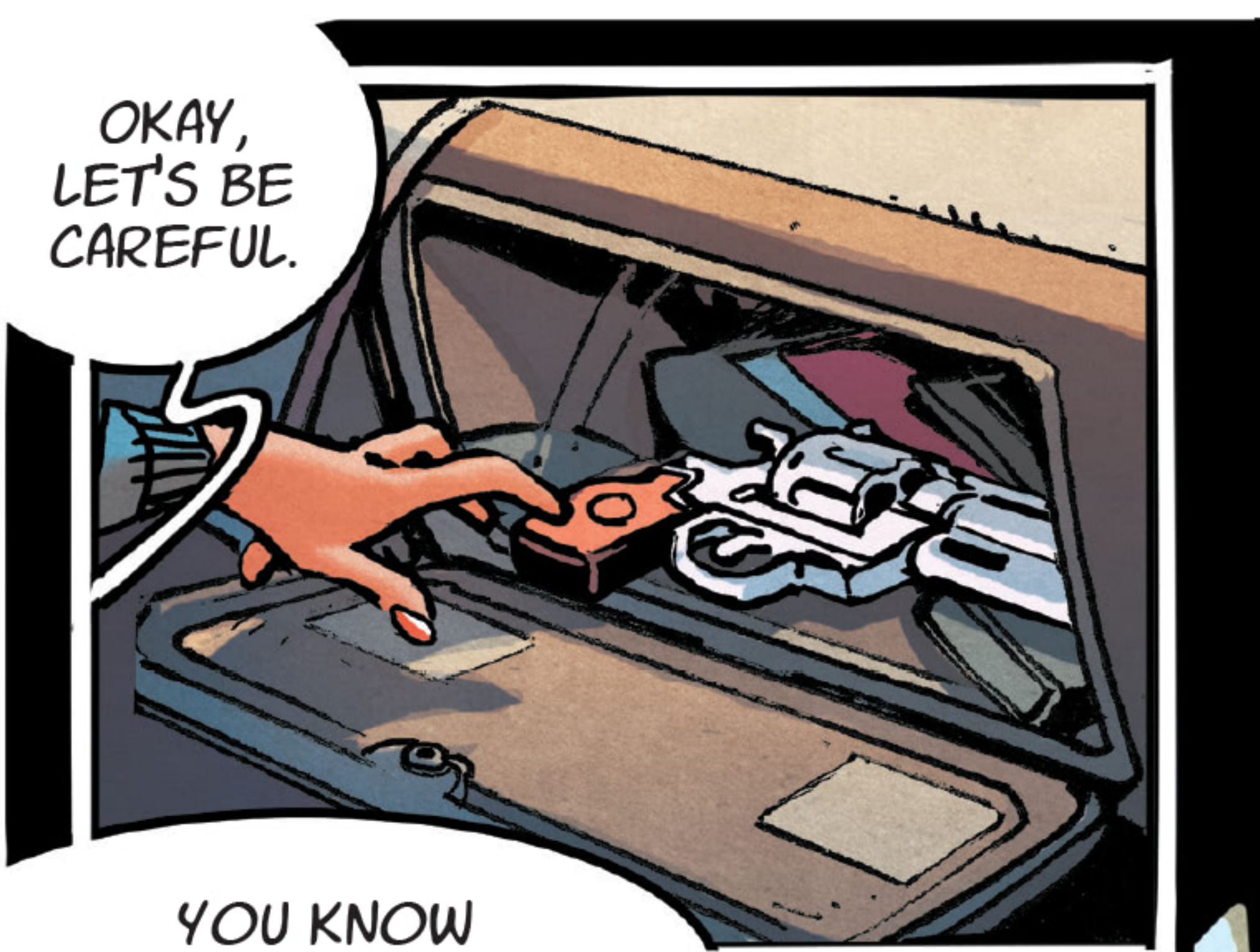
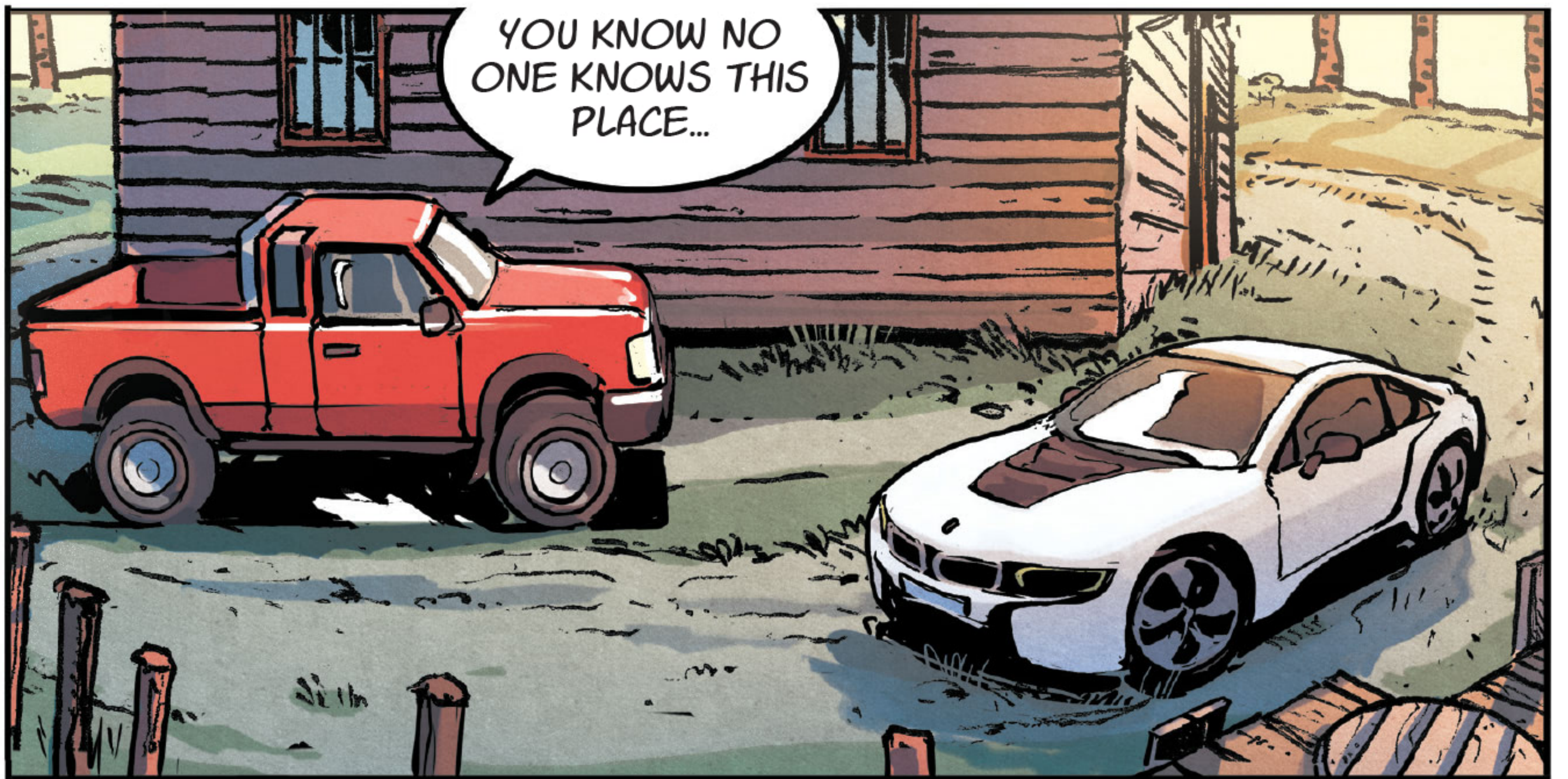
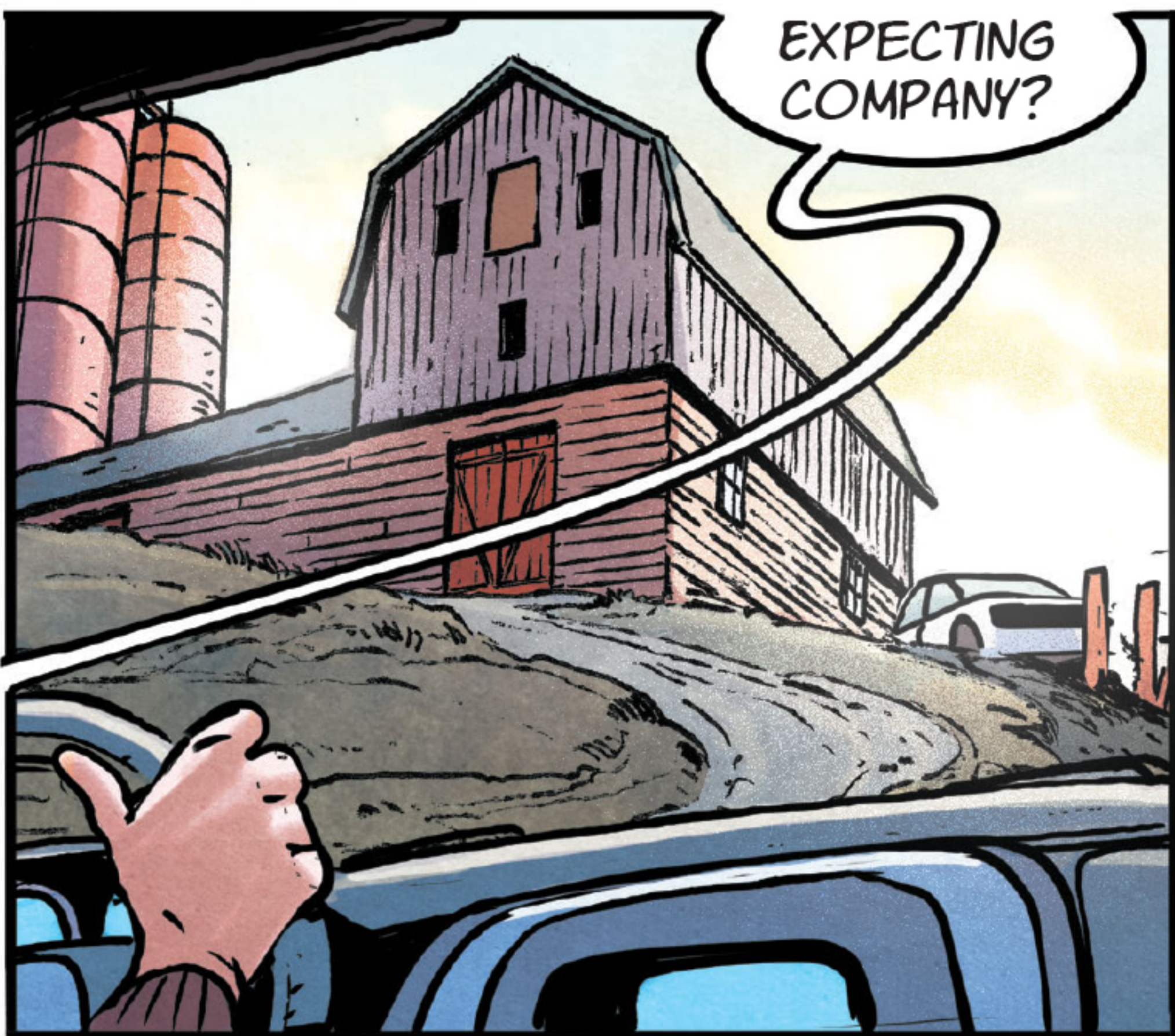
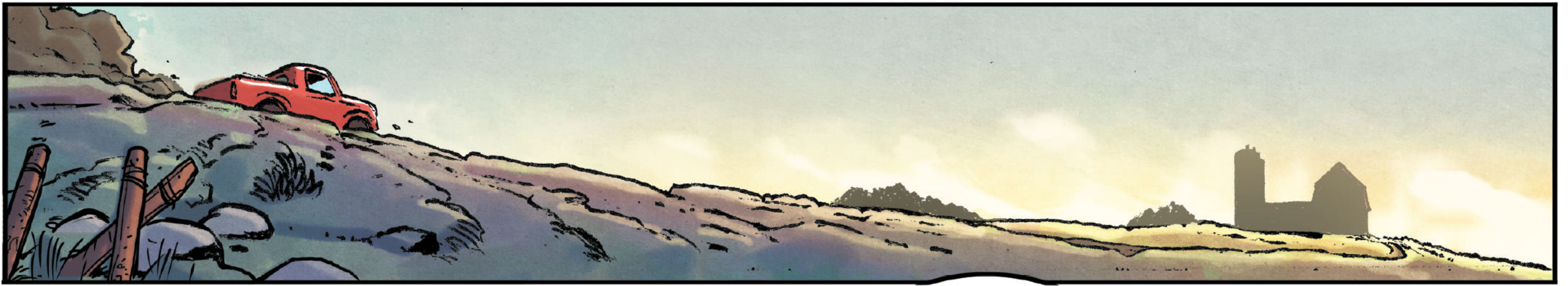
SO WHY ARE THE PAPERS TALKING ABOUT
A VIGILANTE USING THE SAME NAME TO
TAKE ON THE MAFIA IN DETROIT?

THAT'S FOR
CERTAIN.



I KNOW I HAVE THE POWER OF THE
TIGER DIZHI, AND I REMEMBER CREATING
THE KLAU AS A SECRET IDENTITY TO
FIGHT CRIME IN CHICAGO.

AND ASSUMING I'M REMEMBERING CORRECTLY,
AM I SUPPOSED TO GO TO DETROIT AND
JUST FALL INTO SOME KIND OF TRAP?



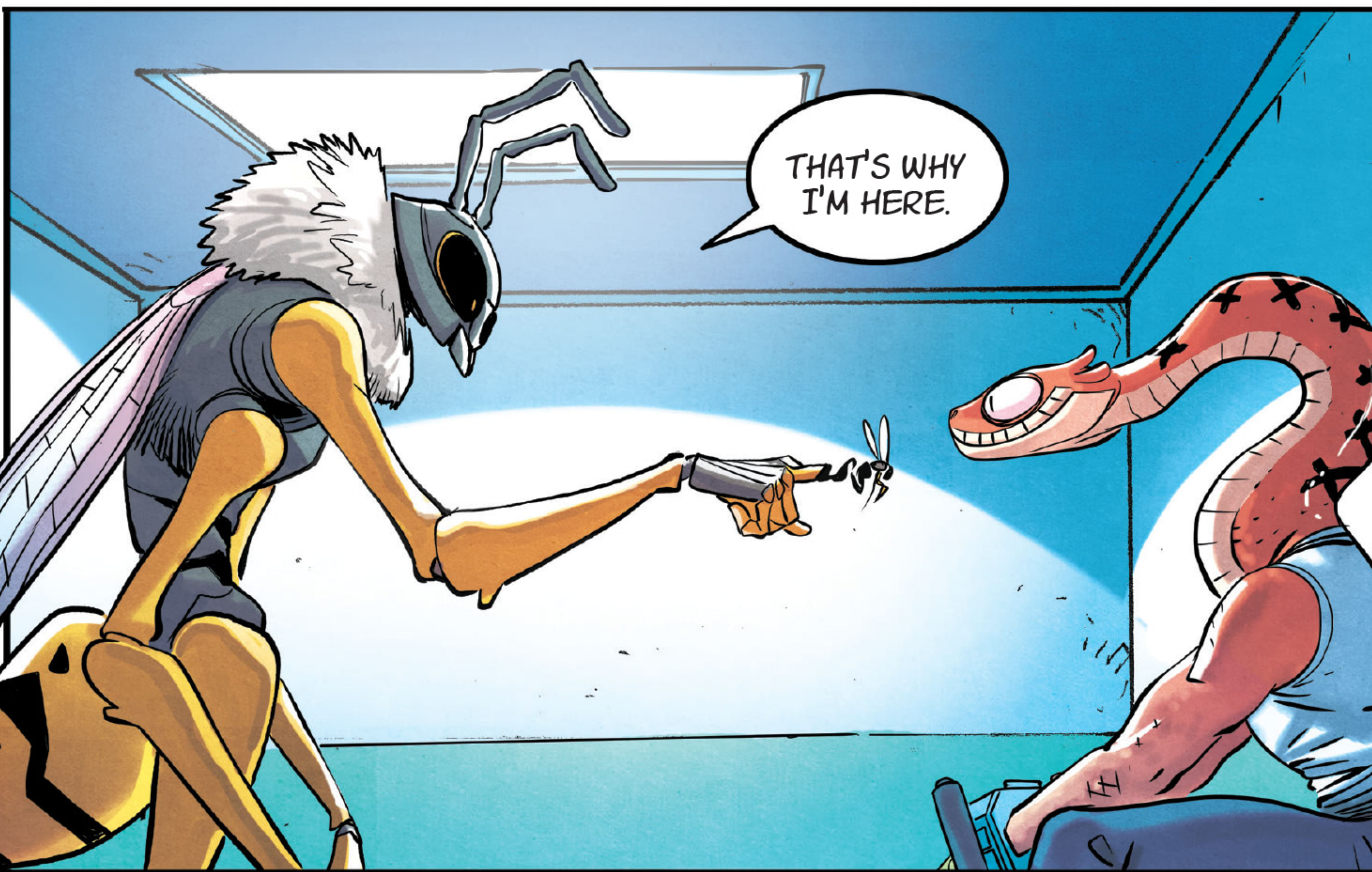


SORRY, BUT YOU GOTTA MOVE.

PLEASE DON'T CAUSE PROBLEMS.



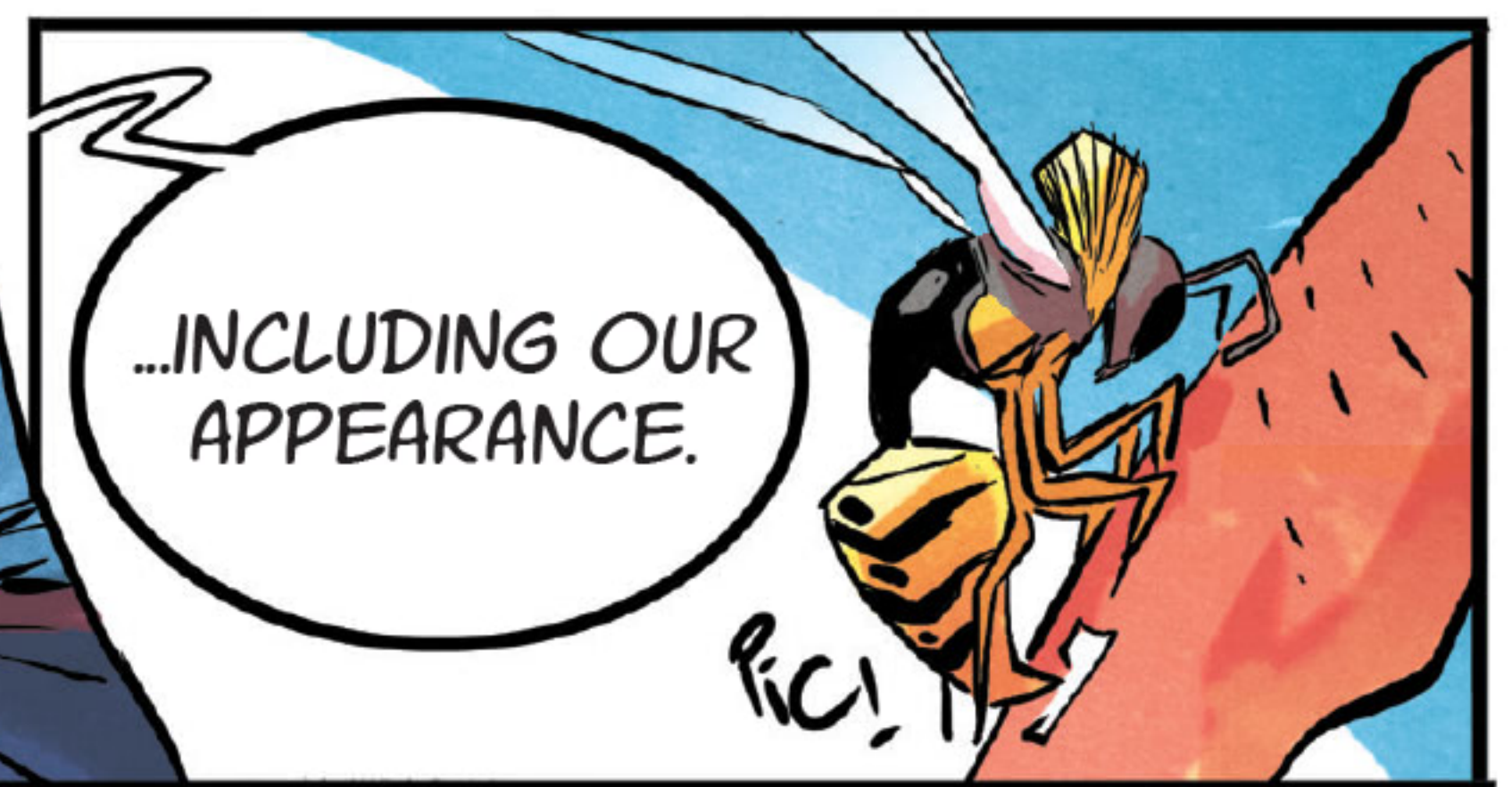
FINE, BUT I HOPE YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO GO UNNOTICED LOOKING LIKE THIS...



THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

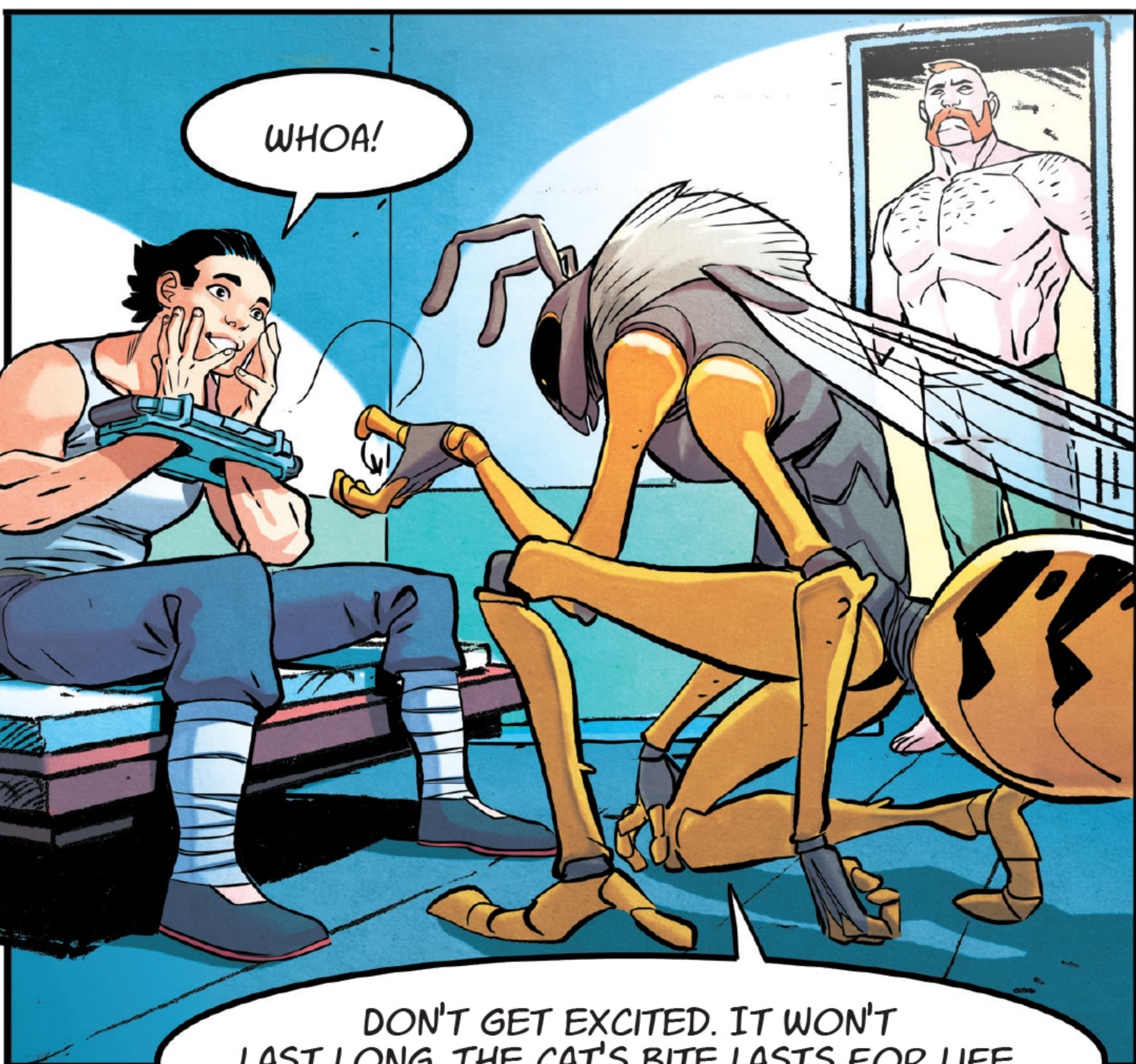


MY STINGS CAN INTERRUPT DIZHI POWERS FOR A WHILE...



...INCLUDING OUR APPEARANCE.

Pic!



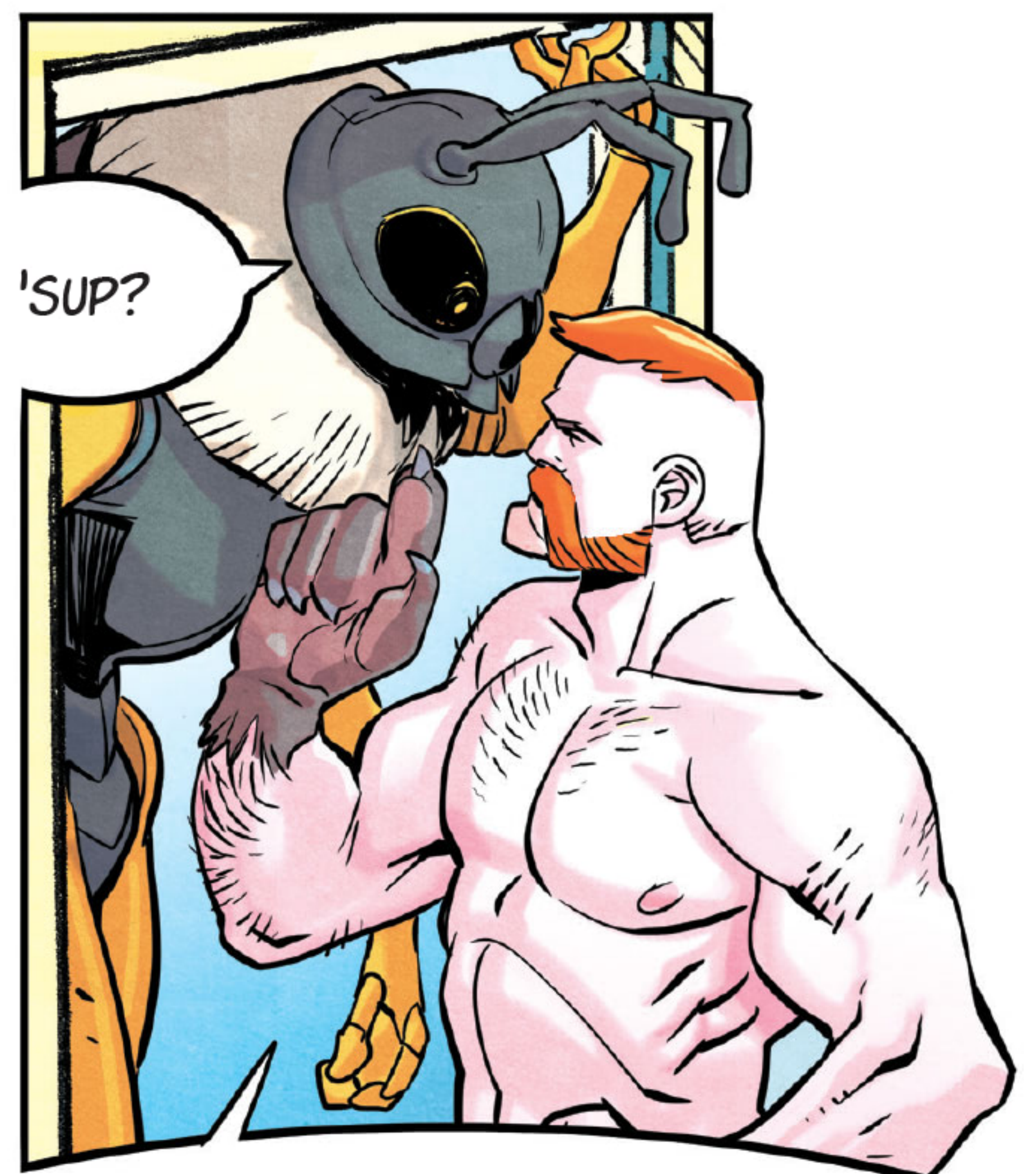
WHOA!

DON'T GET EXCITED. IT WON'T LAST LONG. THE CAT'S BITE LASTS FOR LIFE.



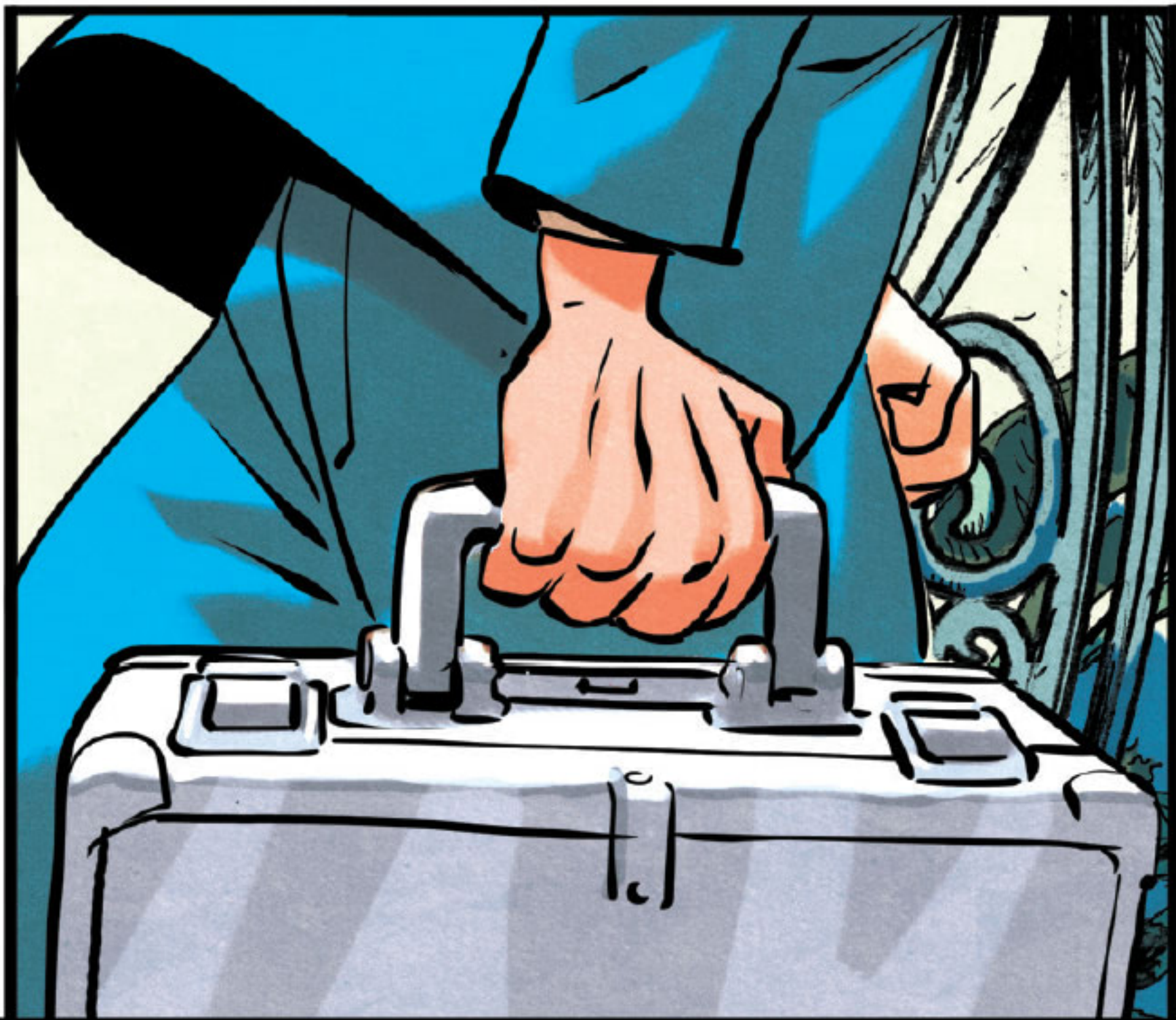
I CAN CONFIRM THAT!

NICK? TALK TO YOU A SECOND?



'SUP?

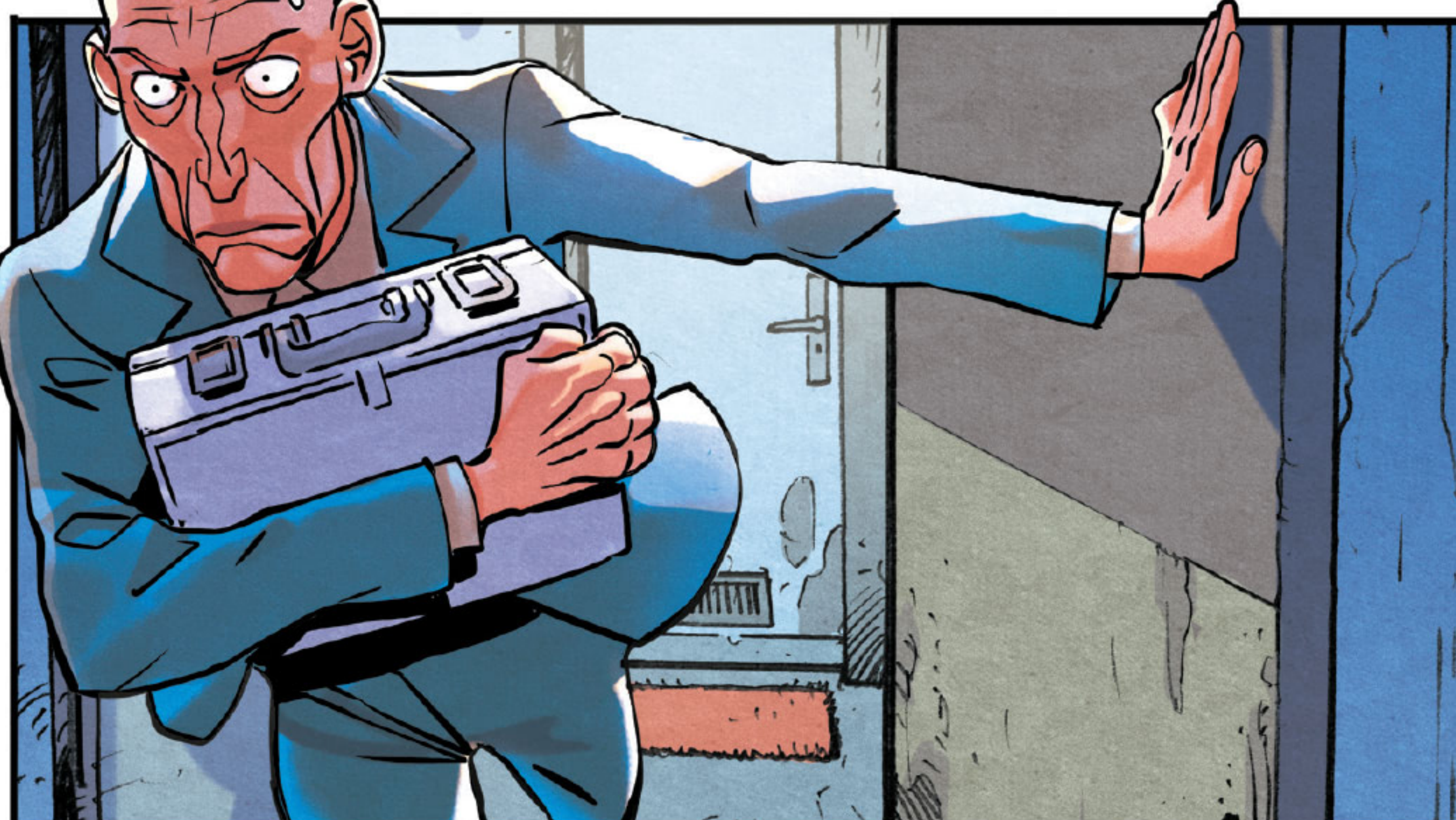
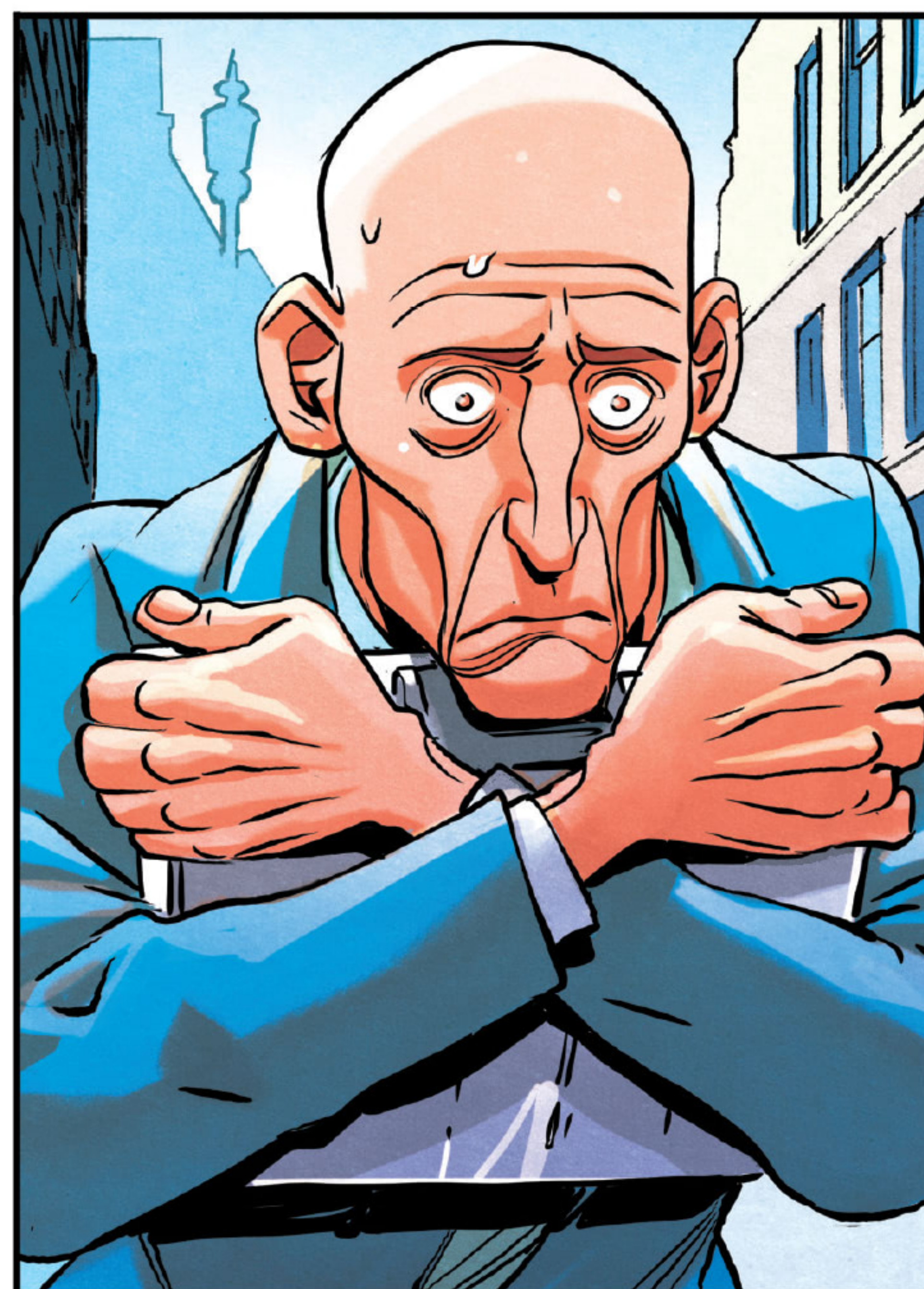
SAMIR IS FURIOUS. HE JUST FOUND OUT THE GIRLS NOT ONLY FREED THE TIGER BUT ALSO STOLE THE BRIEFCASE WITH THE CAMEL AND DOG DIZHI VIALS...

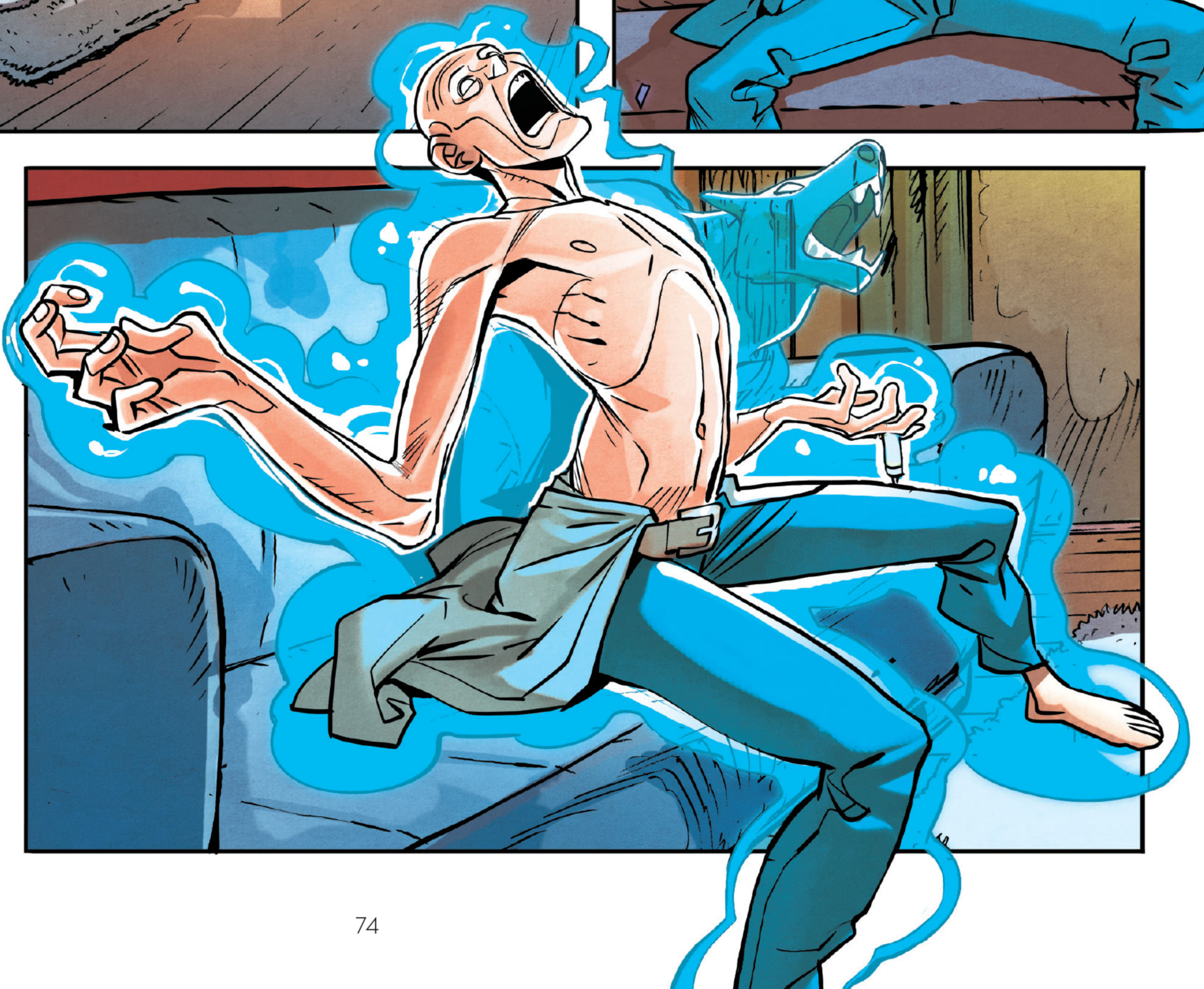
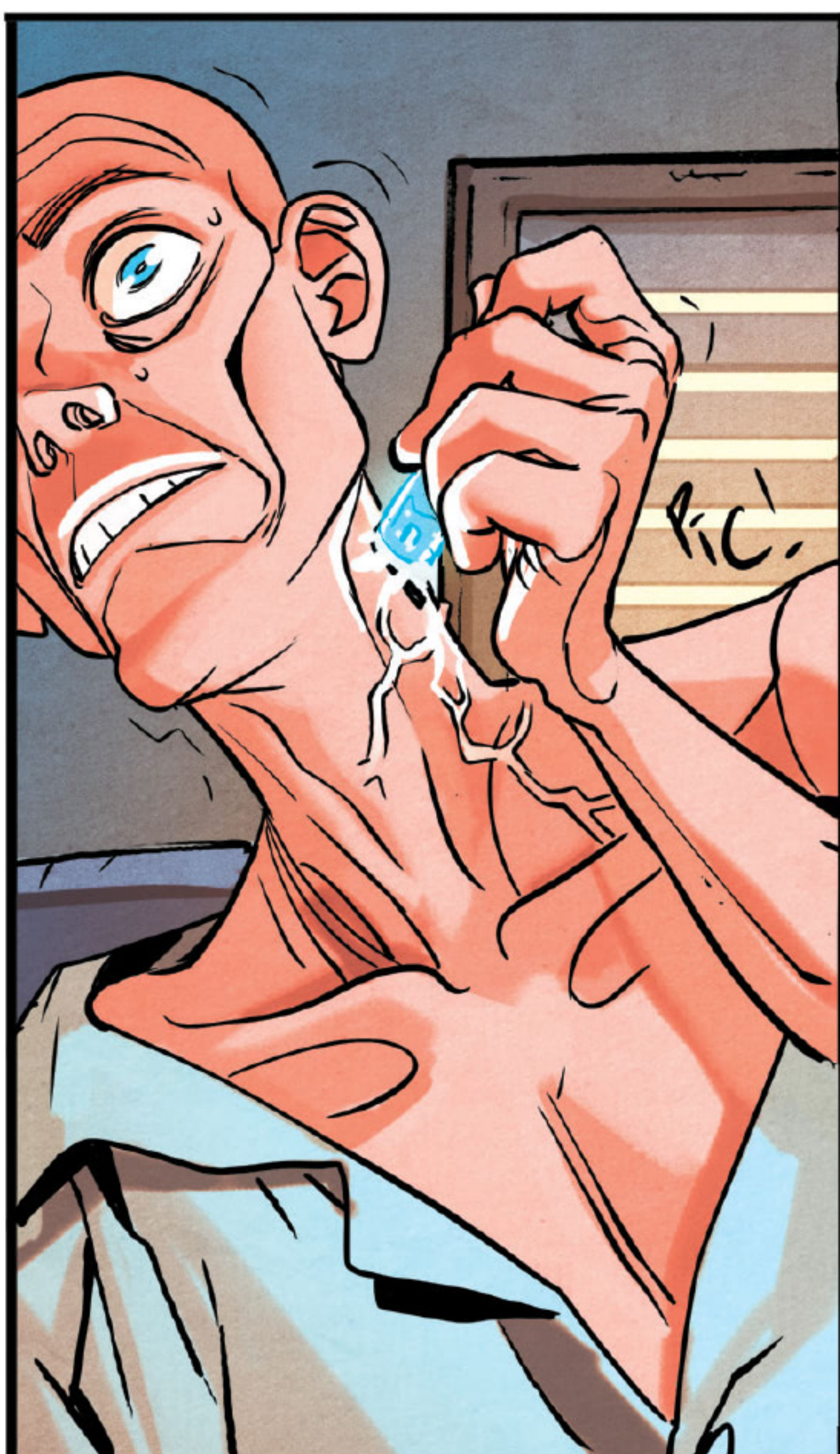
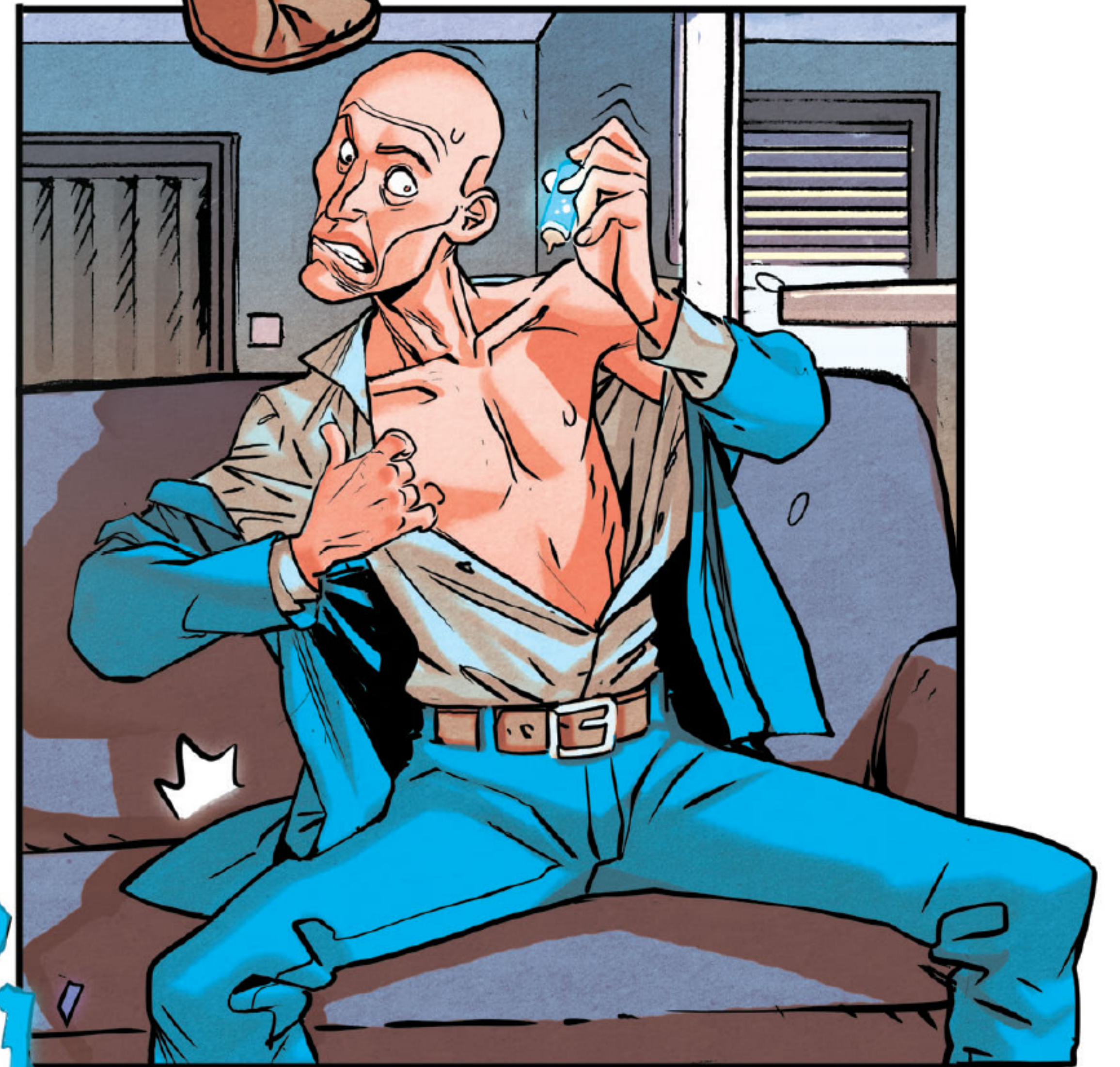
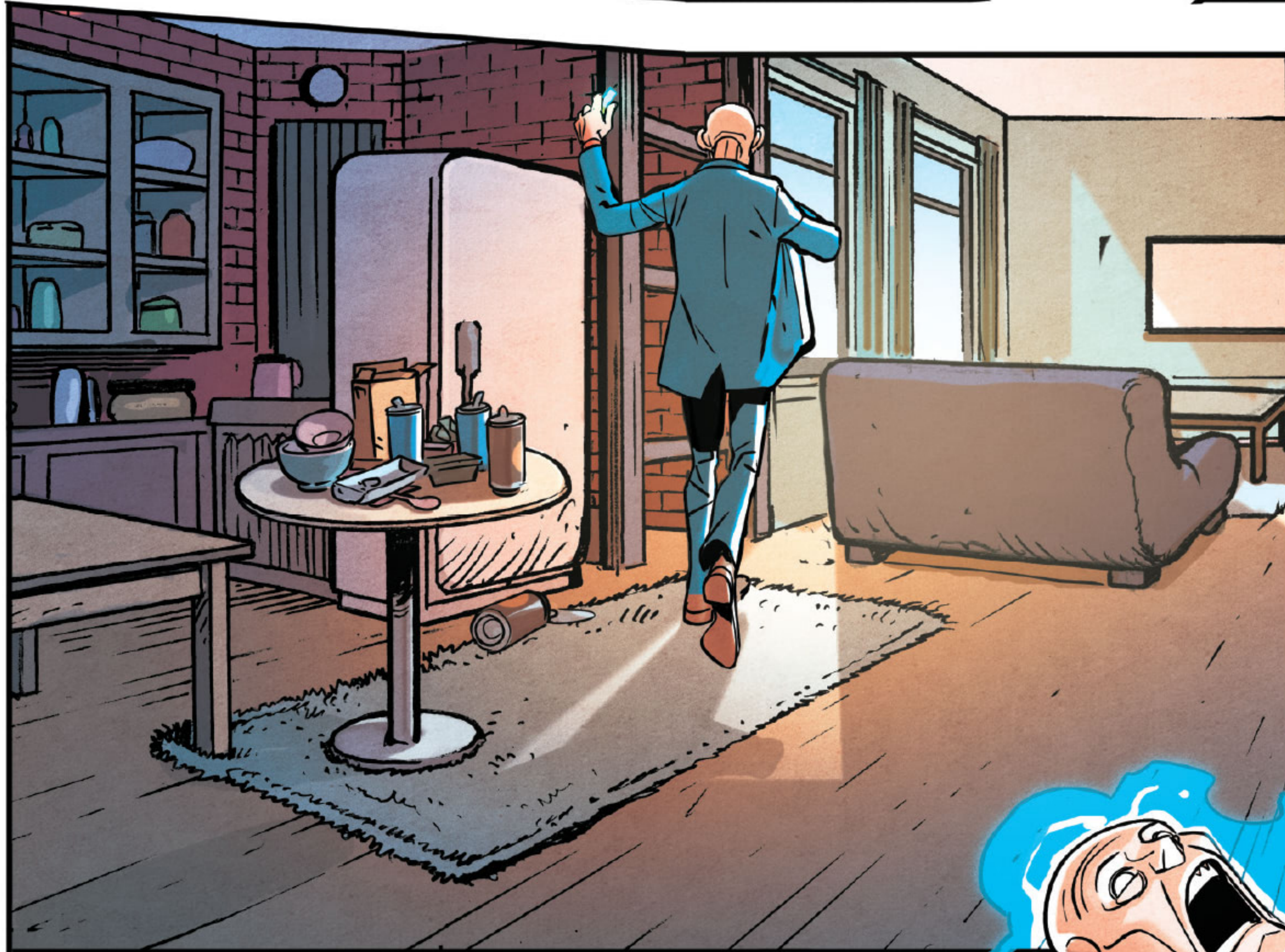
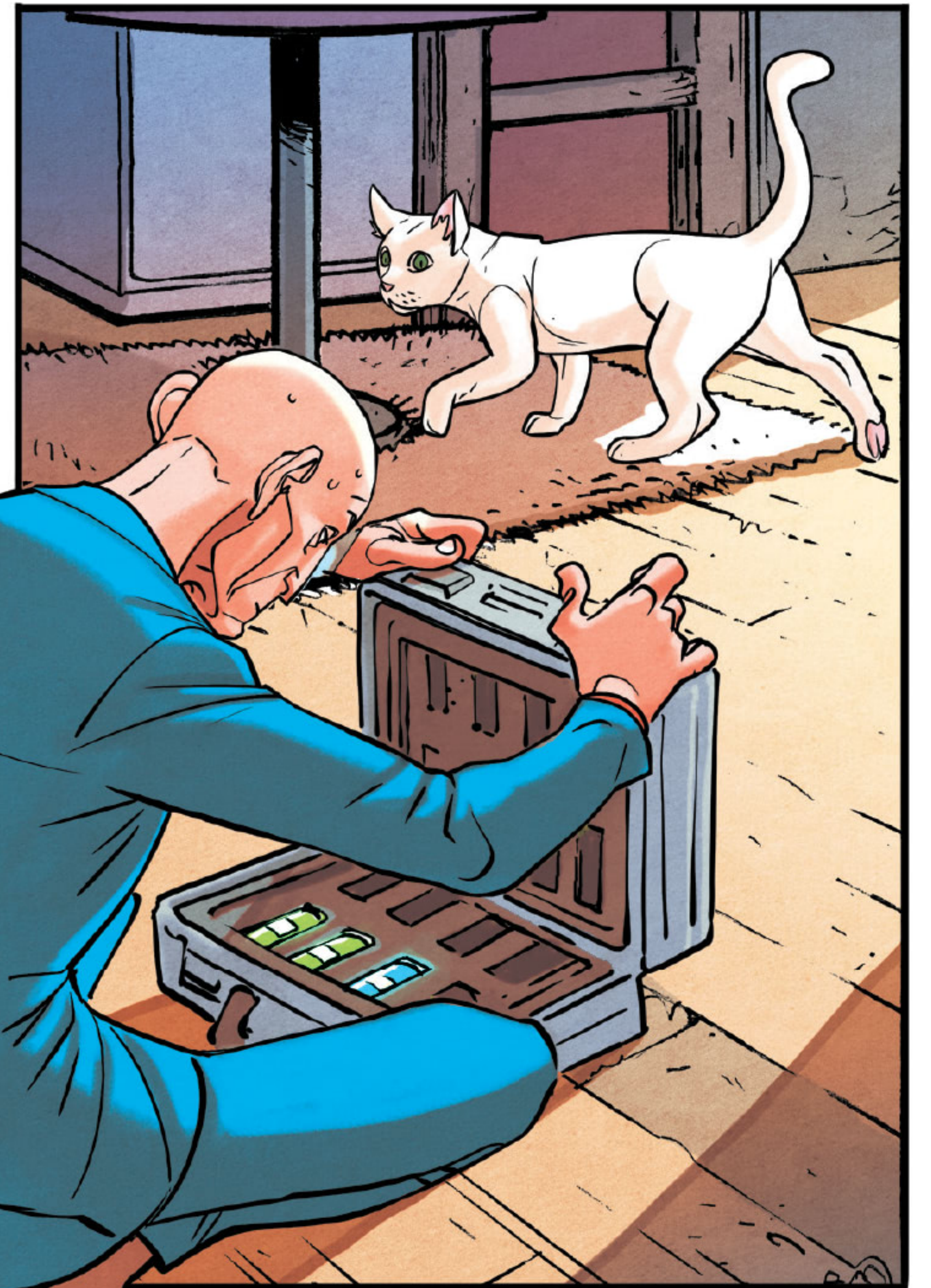
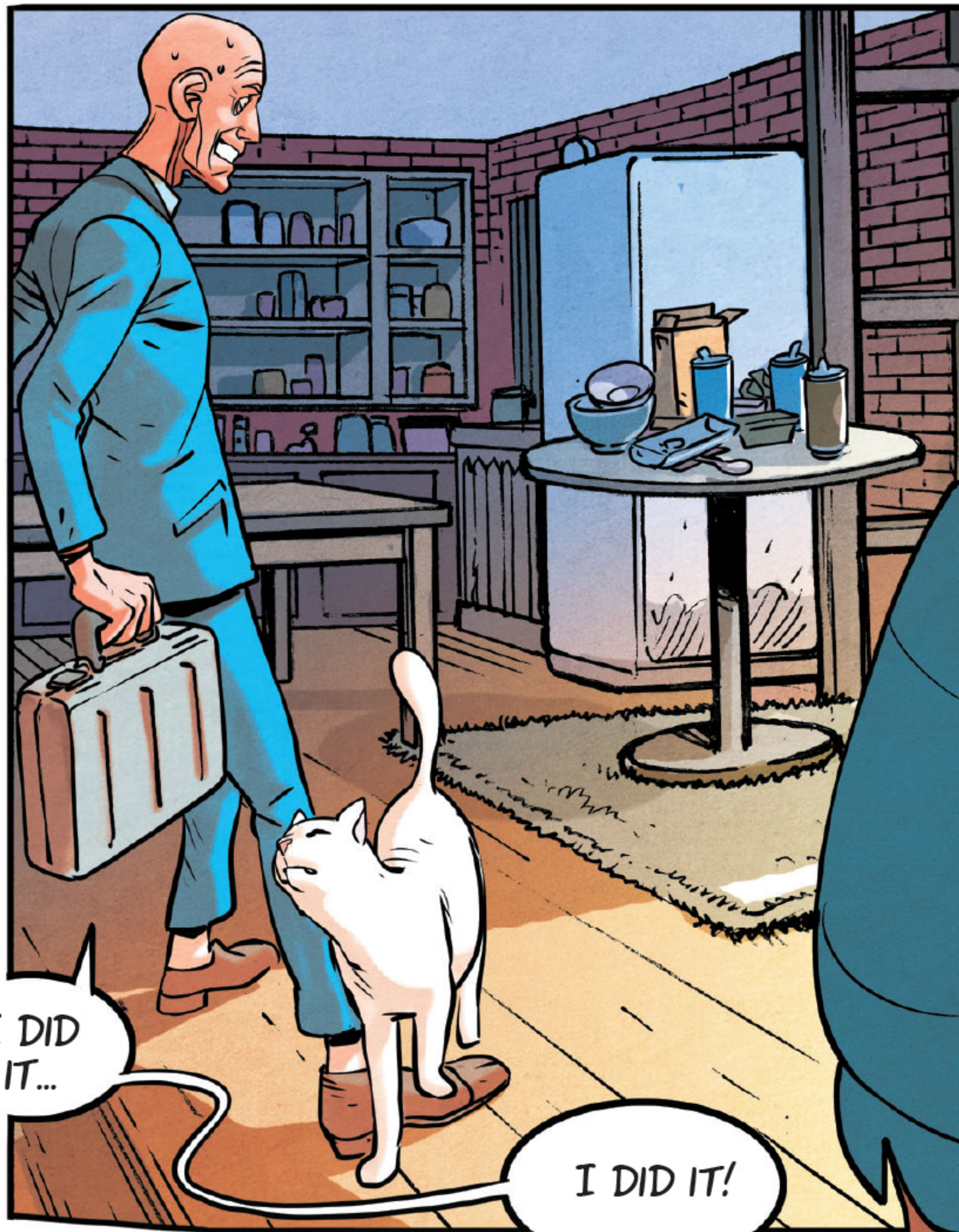
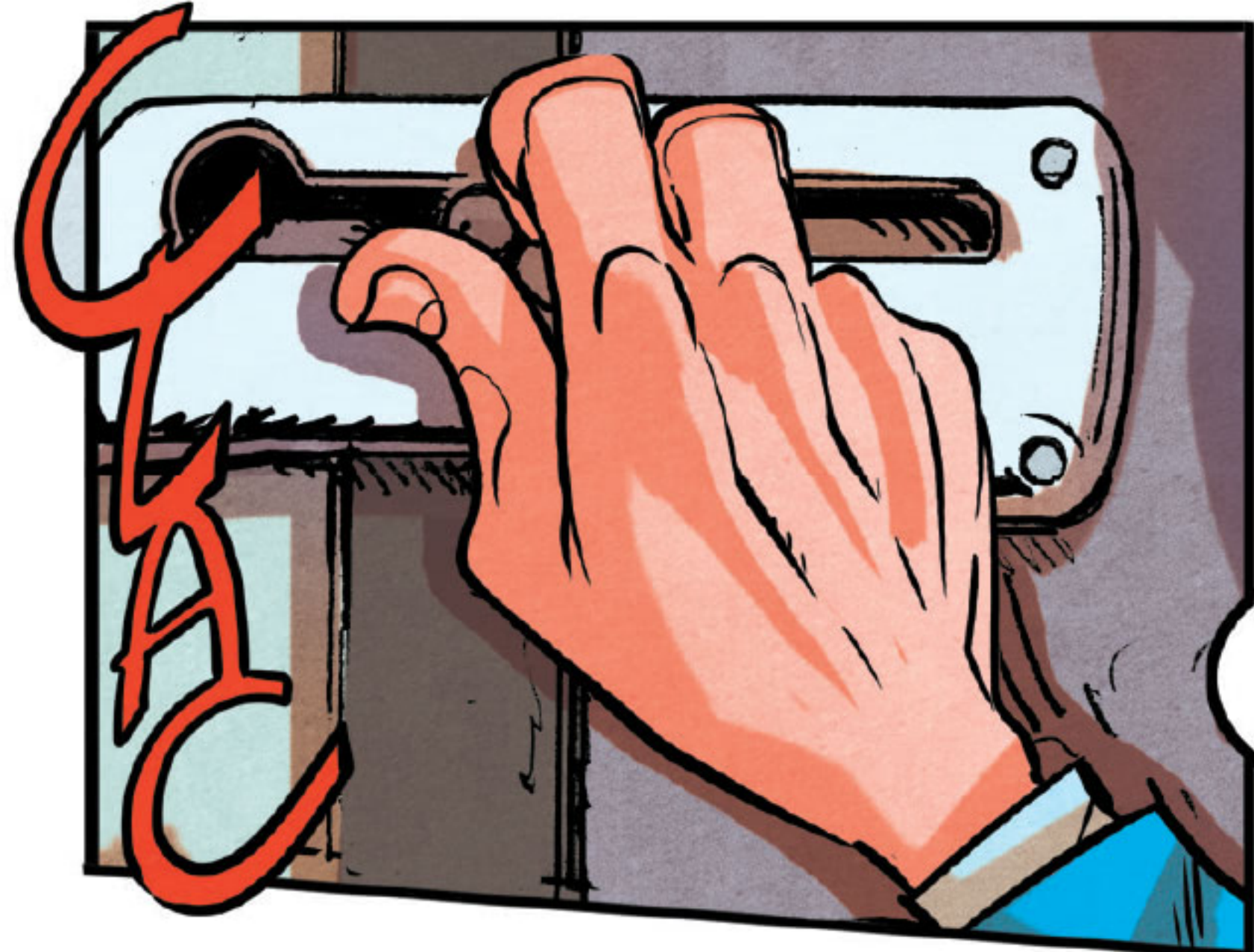
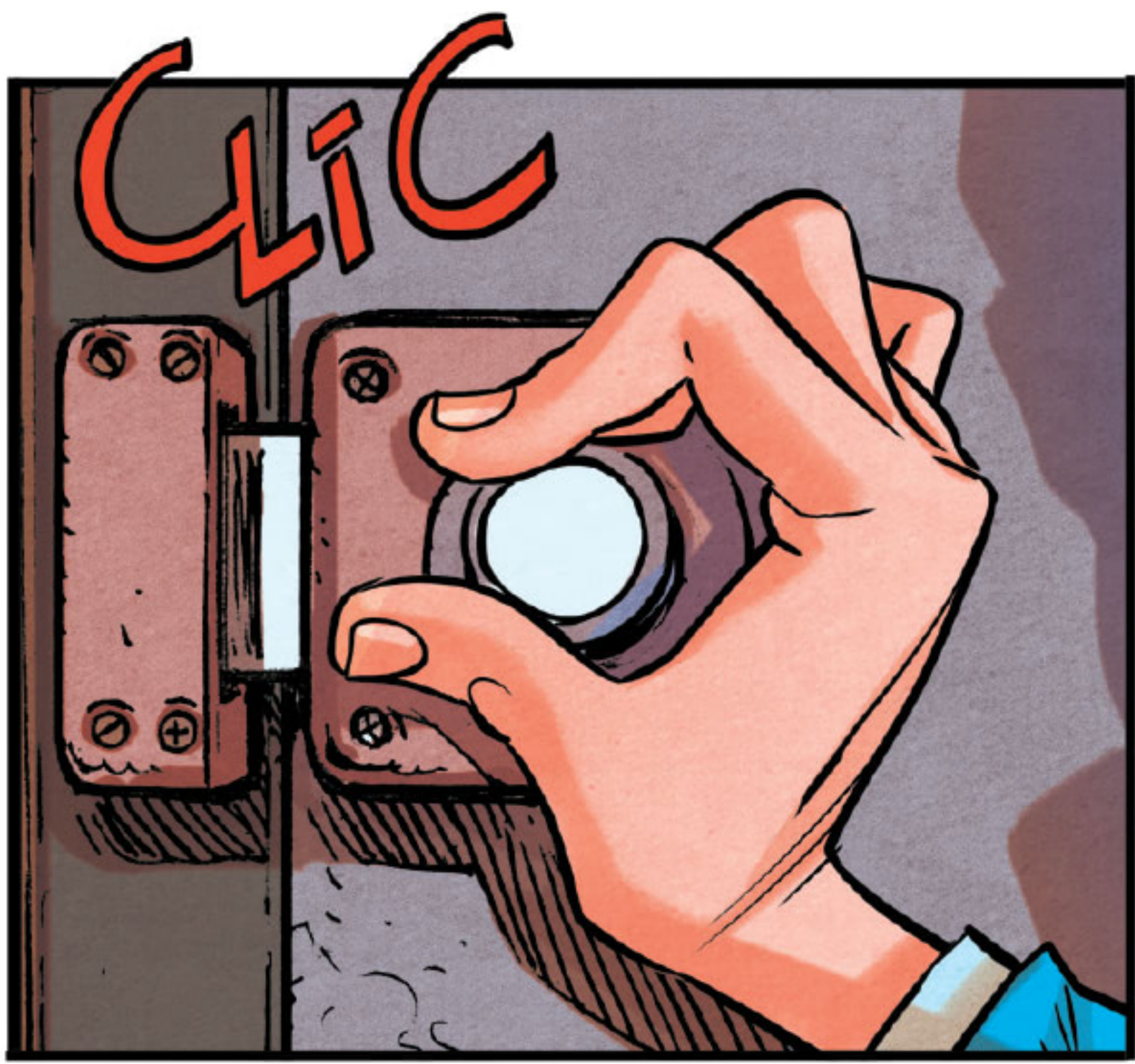


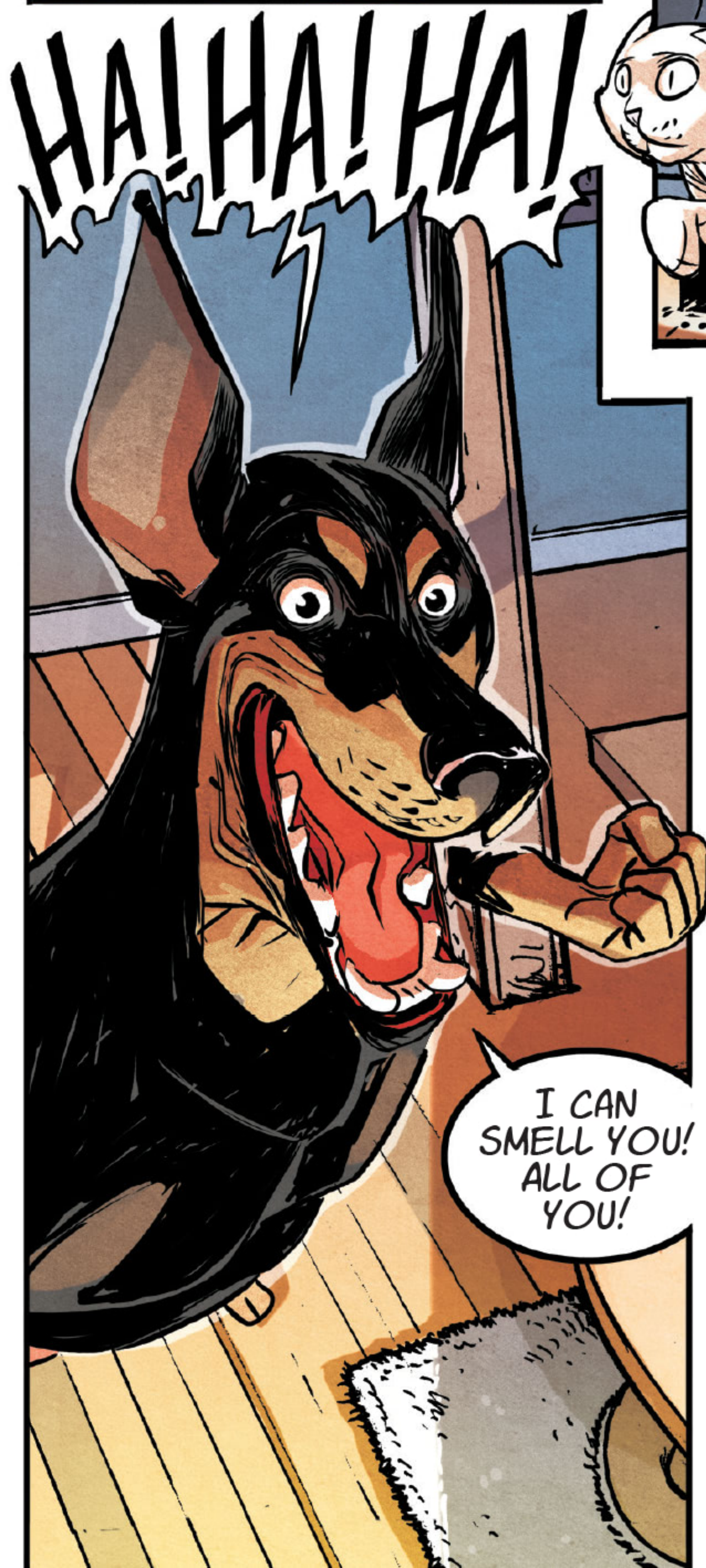
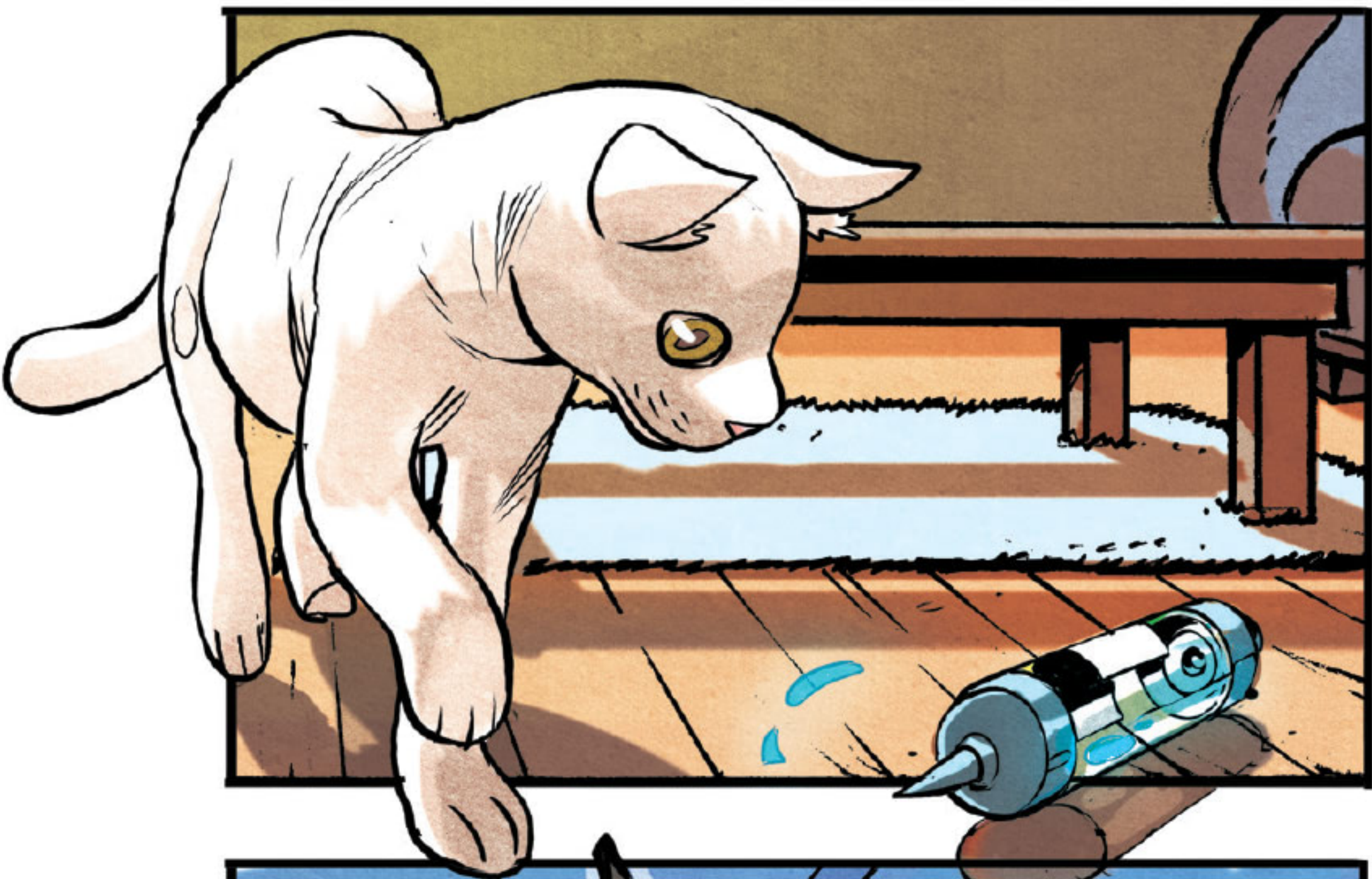
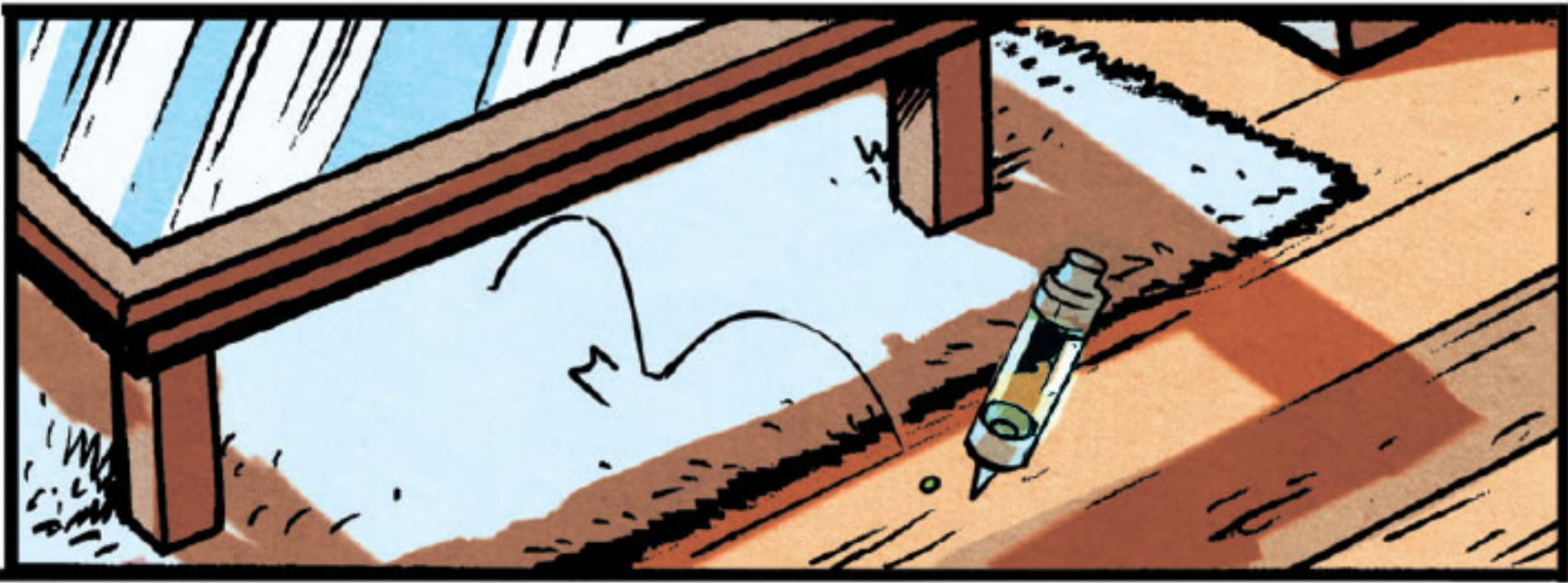
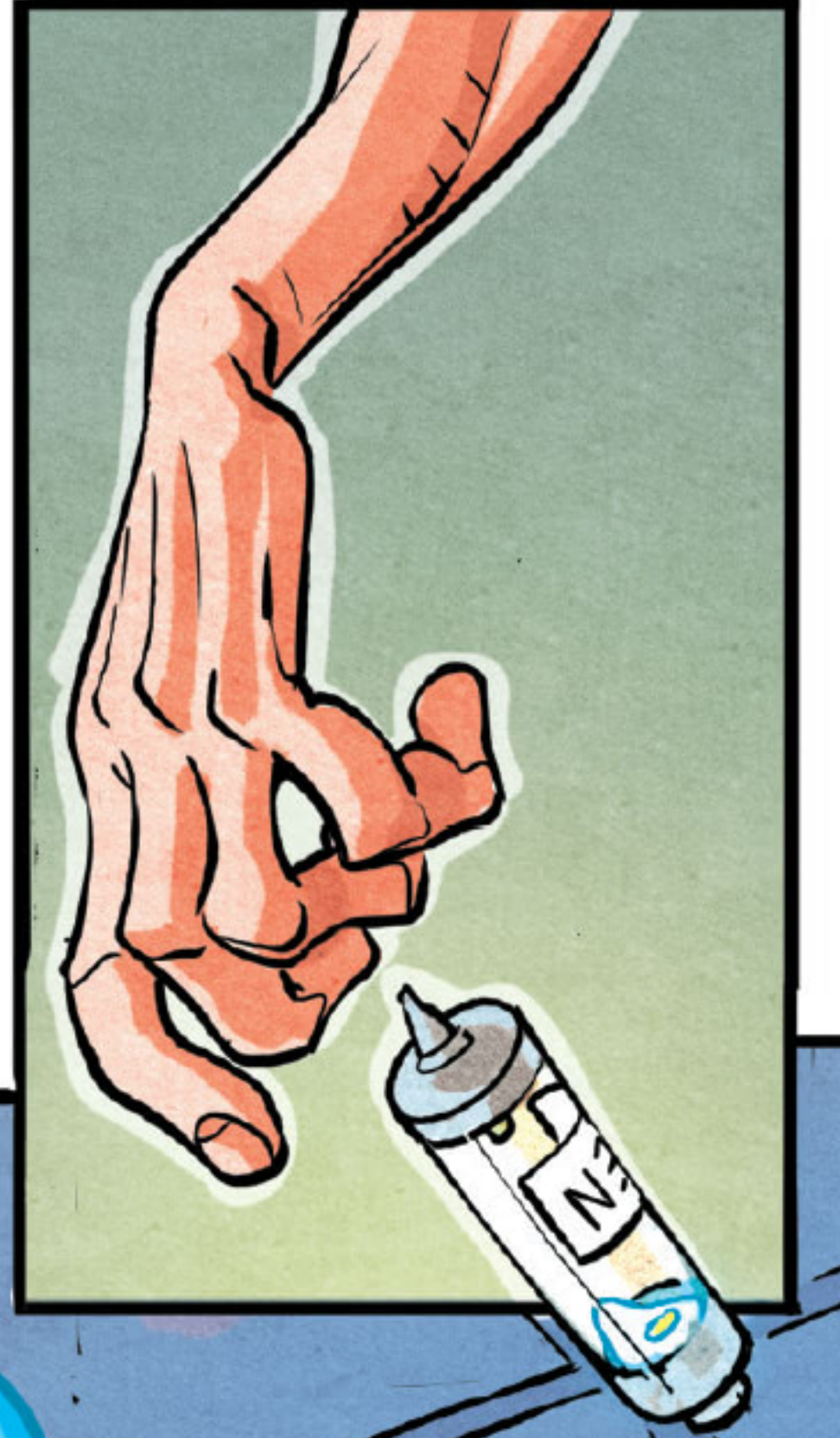
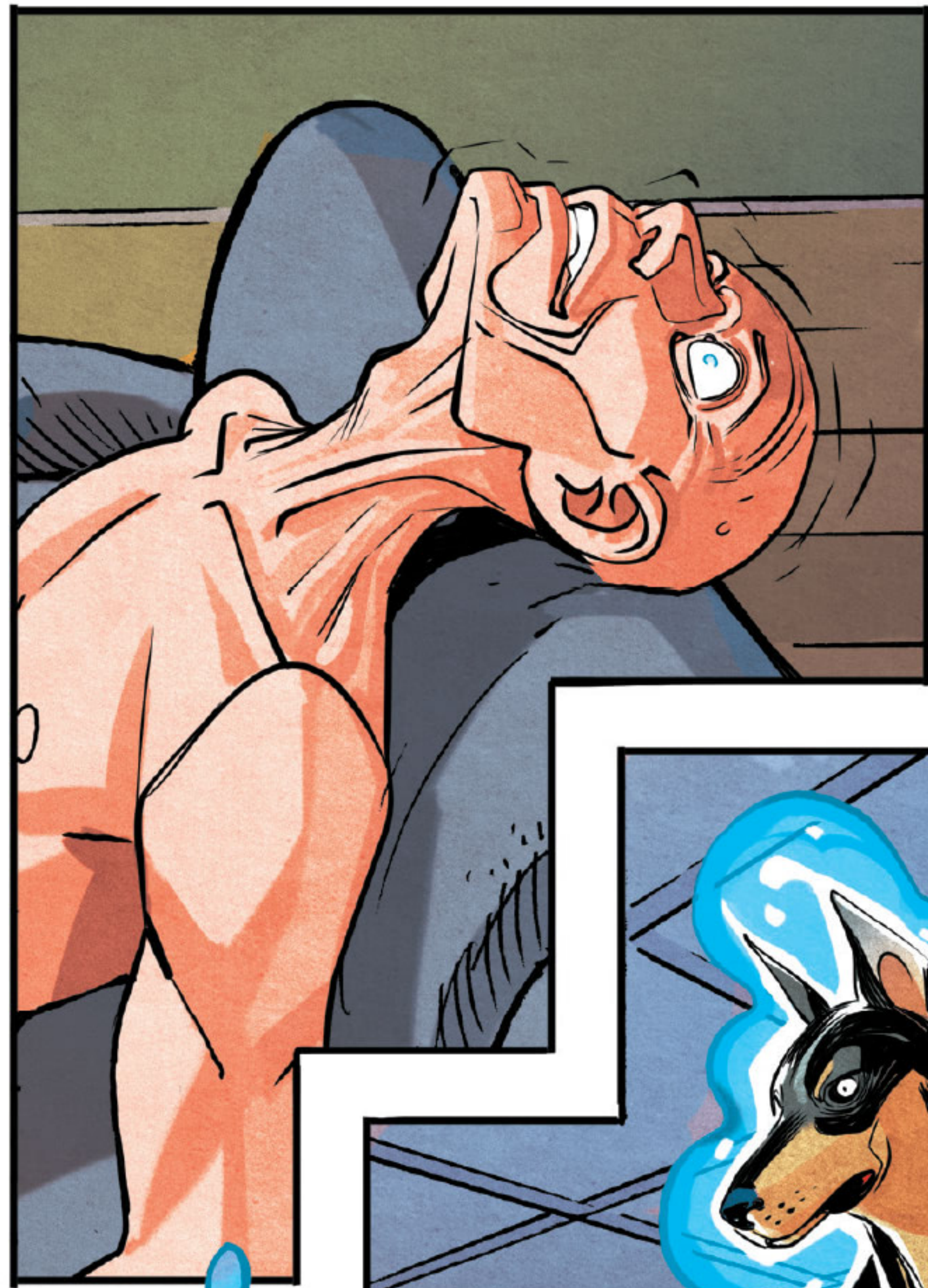
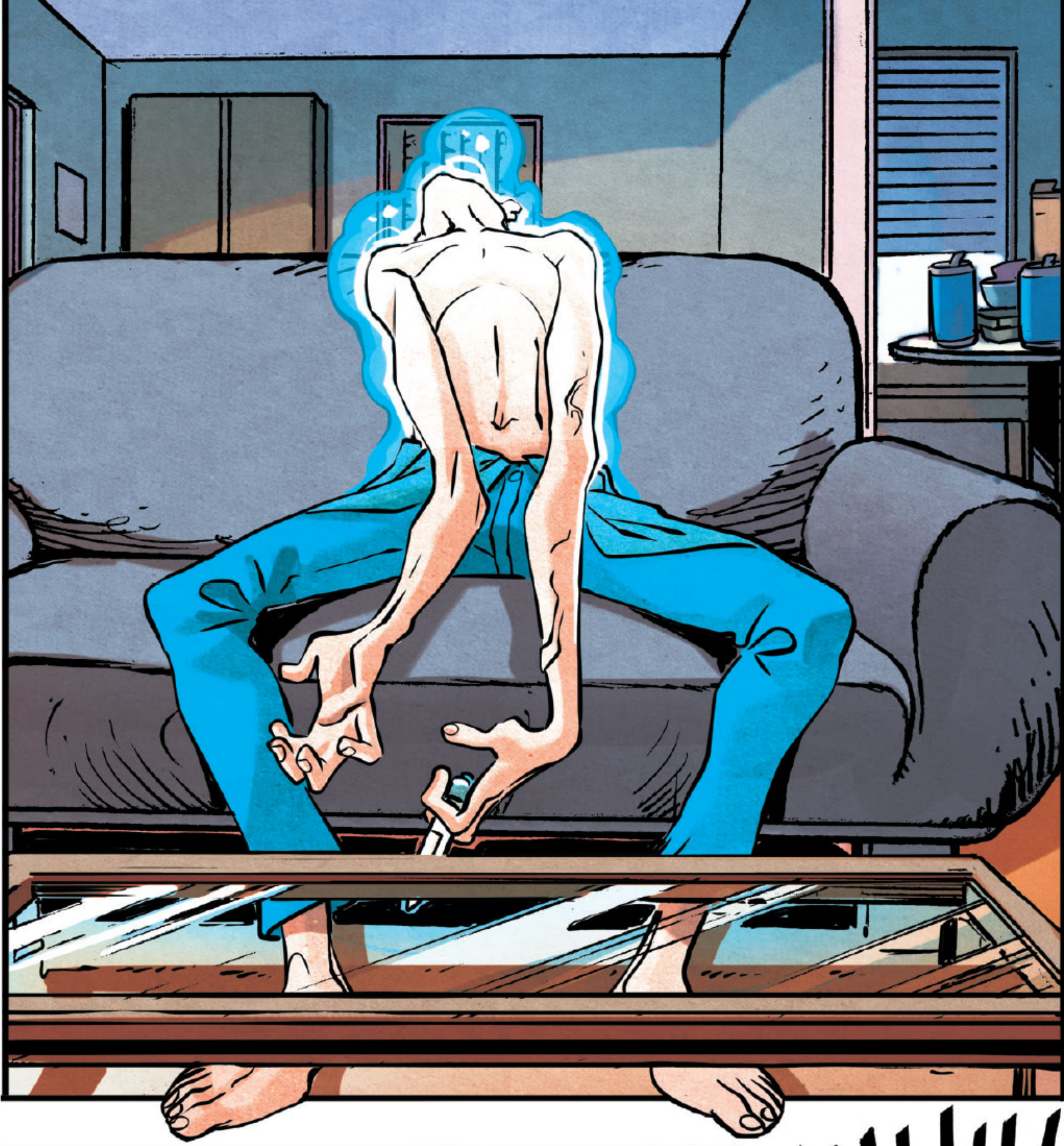
WHAT, YOU THINK THEY'RE TRYING TO COLLECTED THEIR OWN ARMY OF DIZHIS?



IN THAT CASE, WE SHOULD WARN NEIL, ALEC, AND FLORENT. WE'RE ALL POTENTIAL TARGETS!





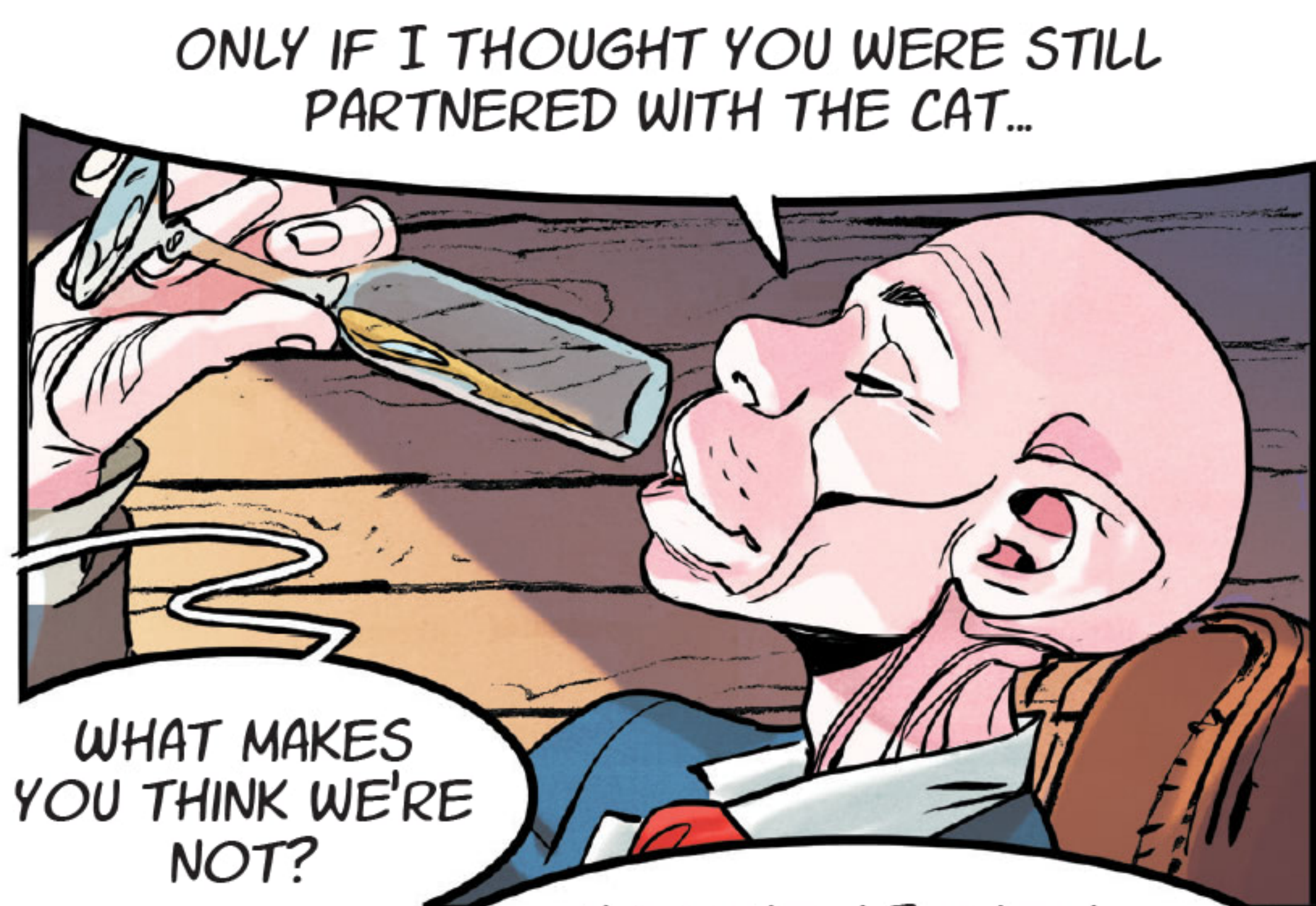




WOULD YOU LIKE SOME CHAMPAGNE?



BALLSY TO COME HERE...



ONLY IF I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL PARTNERED WITH THE CAT...

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE'RE NOT?



YOU KNOW I KNOW EVERYTHING. THAT WAS A FINE MESS YOU MADE AT THEIR COMPOUND.



YOU'RE TAKING THIS IN STRIDE...

HA! NO, I'M SIMPLY A VICTIM OF YOUR CHARM!



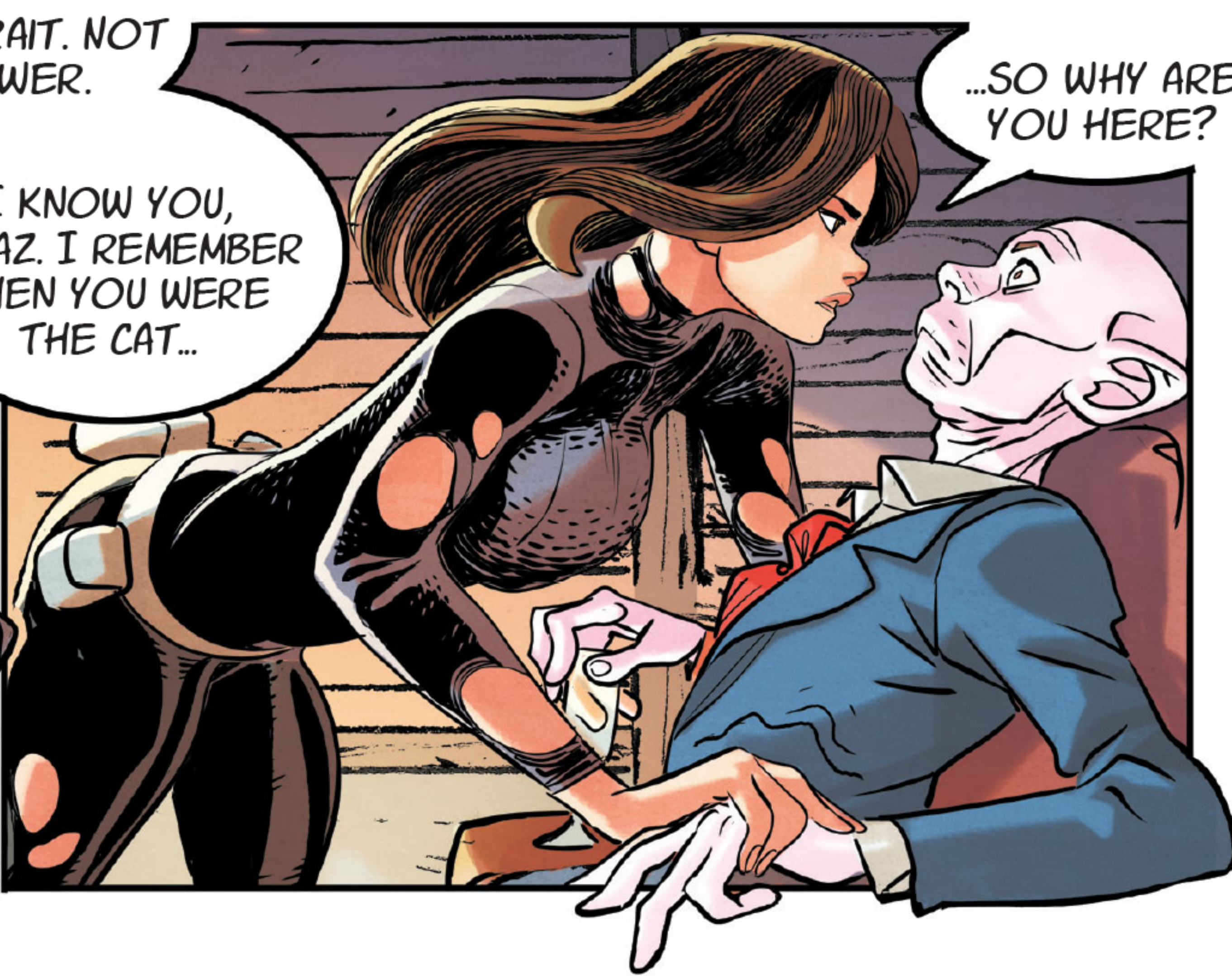
ONE MORE SEXIST REMARK AND YOU DIE!

PLEASE. I SIMPLY MEANT IT WAS IRONIC TO HEAR THAT FROM SOMEONE WITH THE POWER OF OPTIMISM.

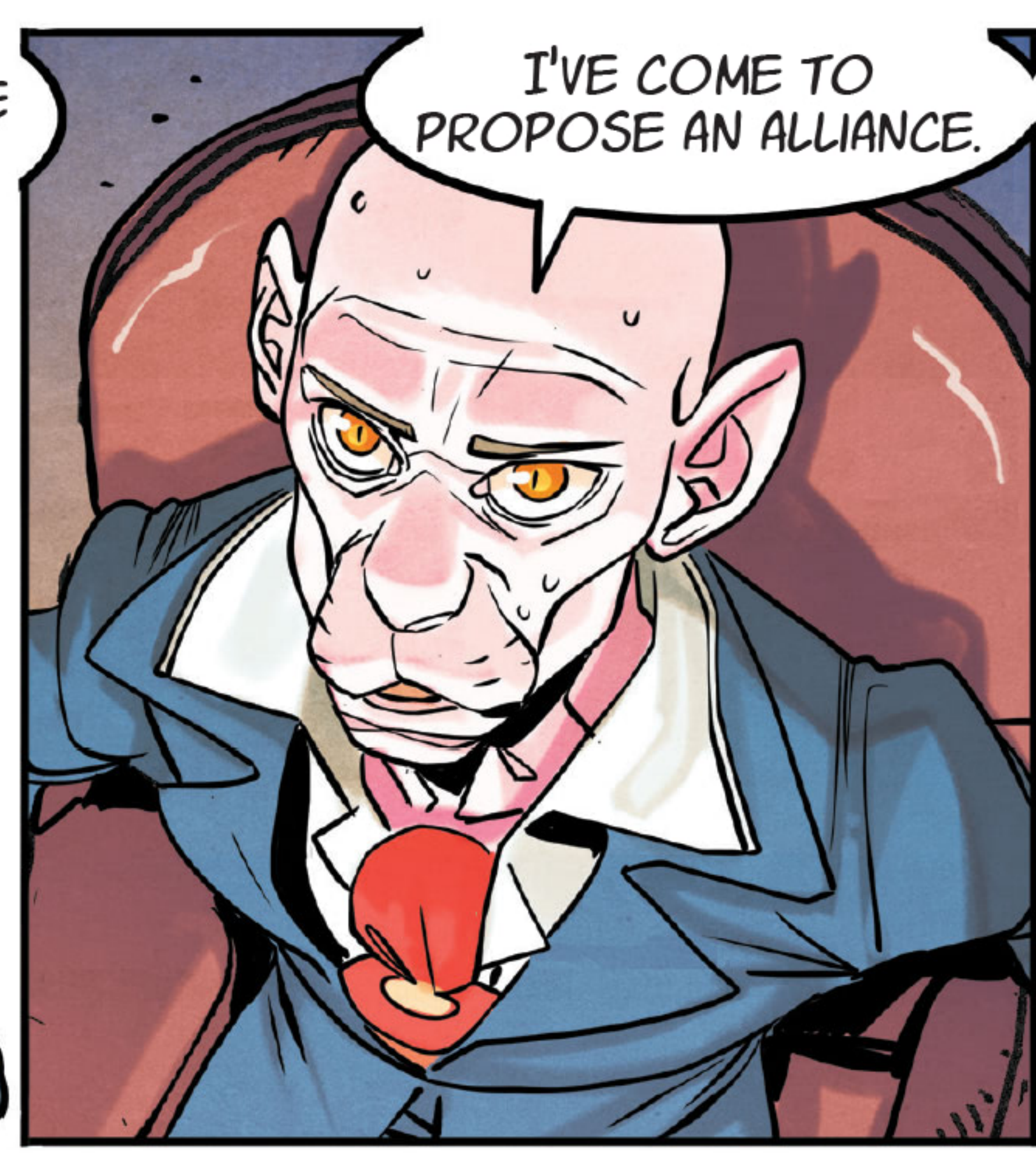


IT'S A TRAIT. NOT A POWER.

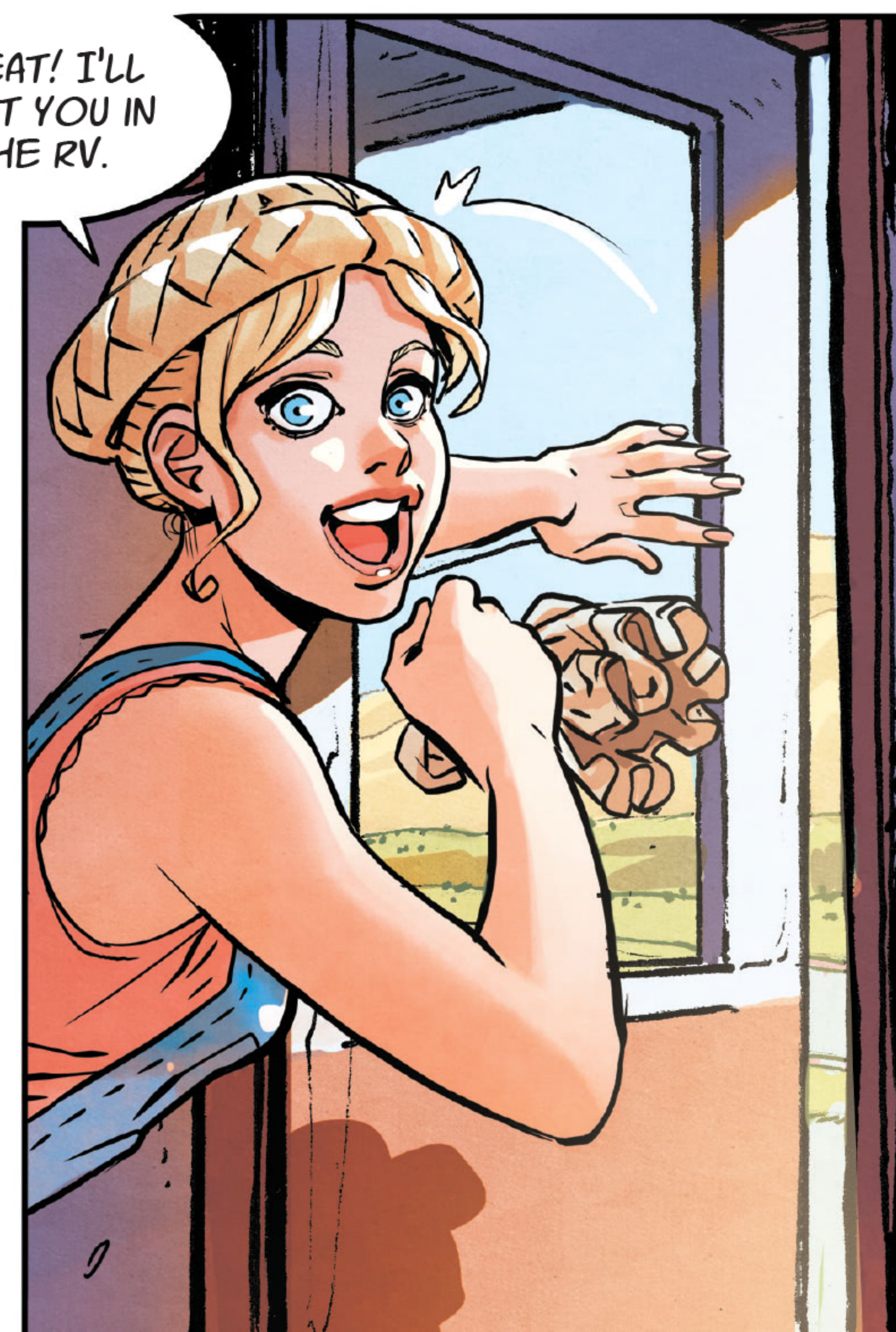
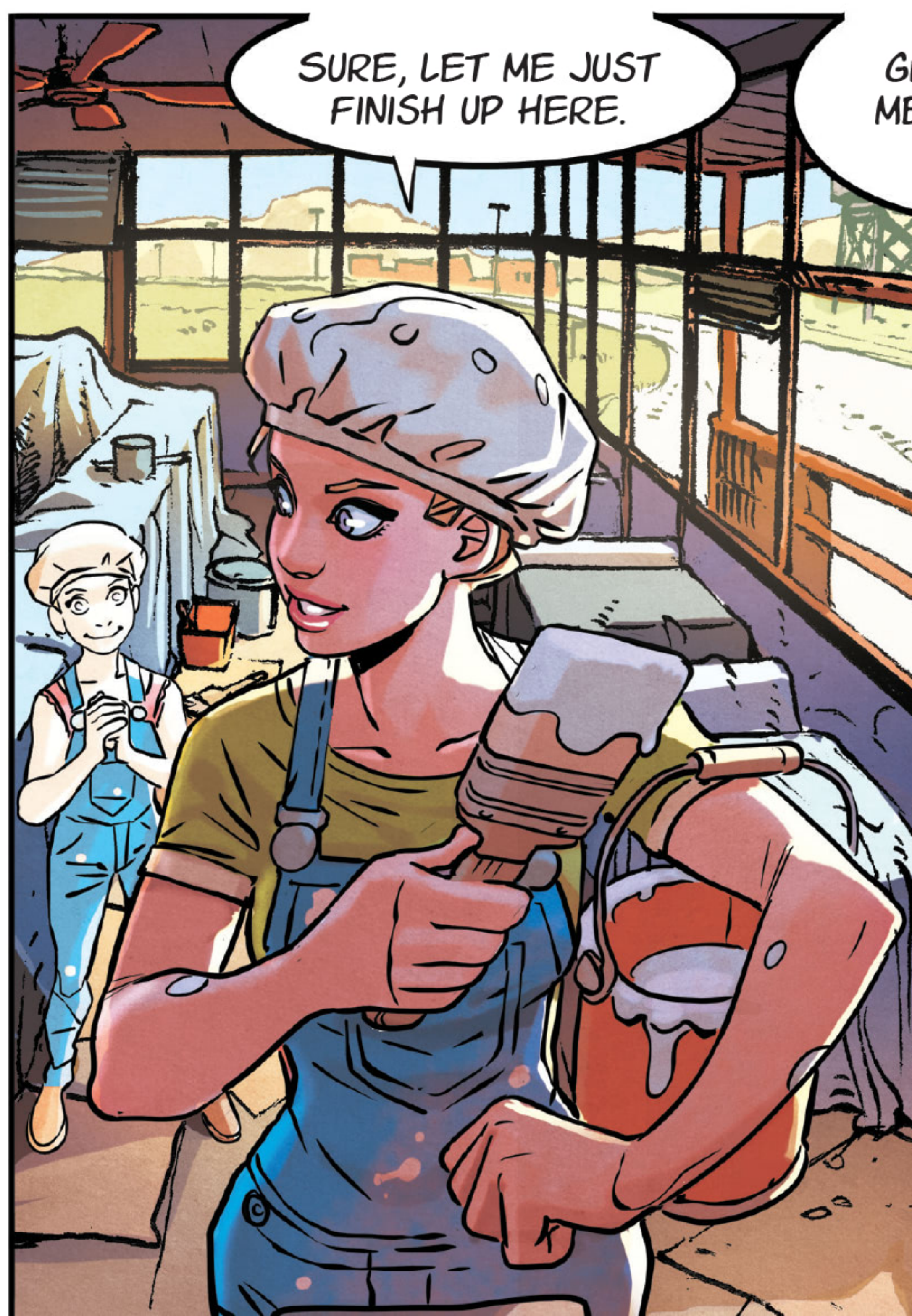
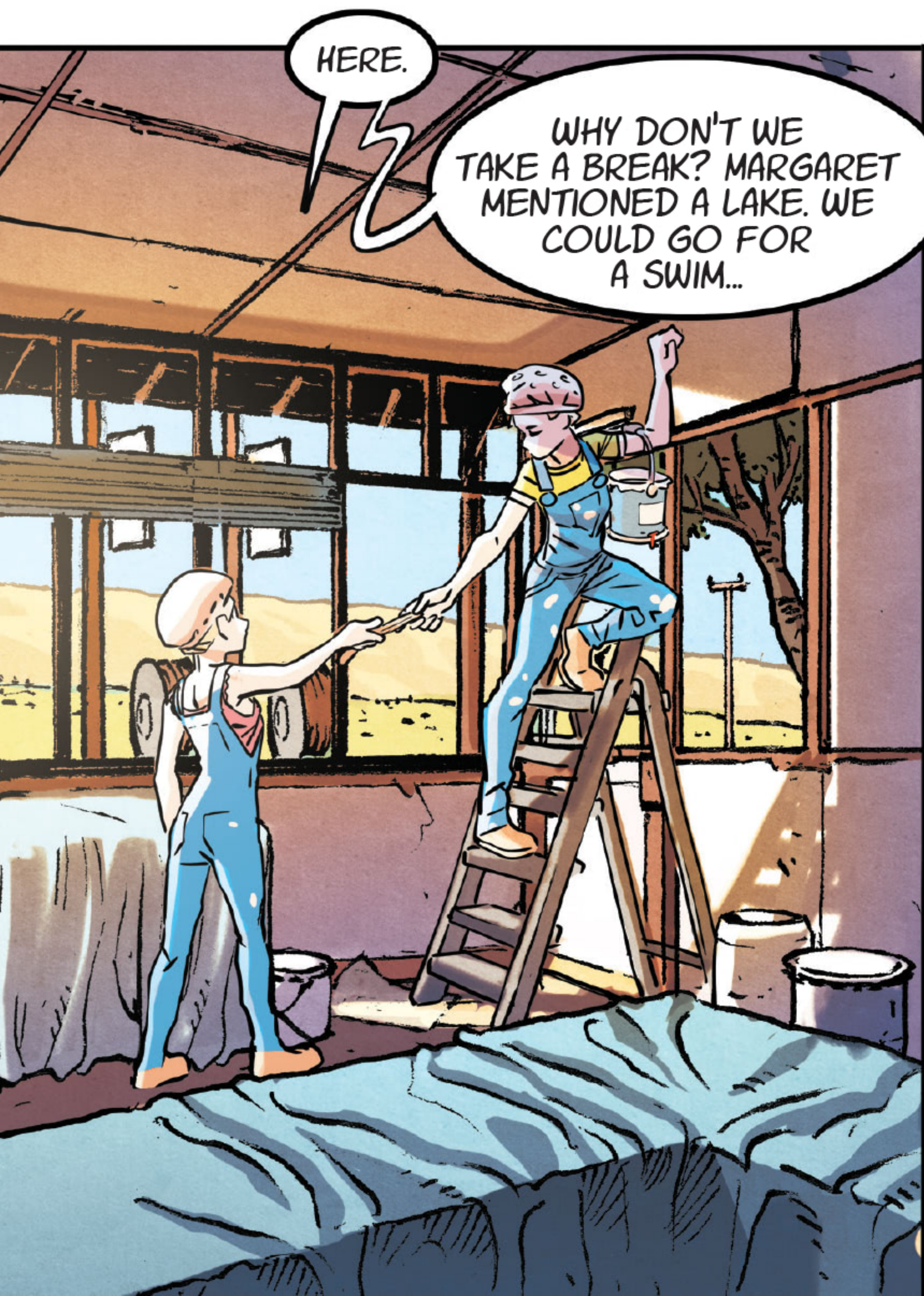
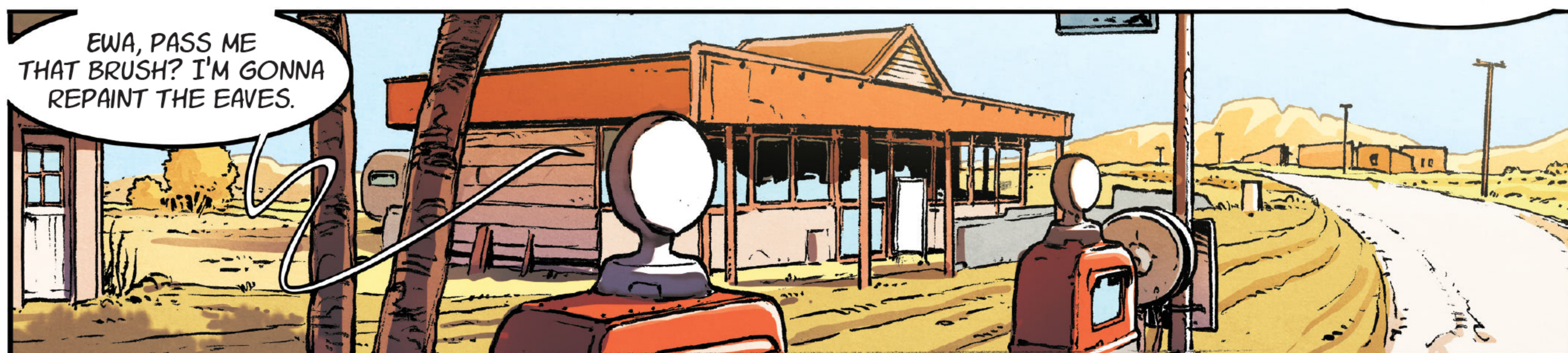
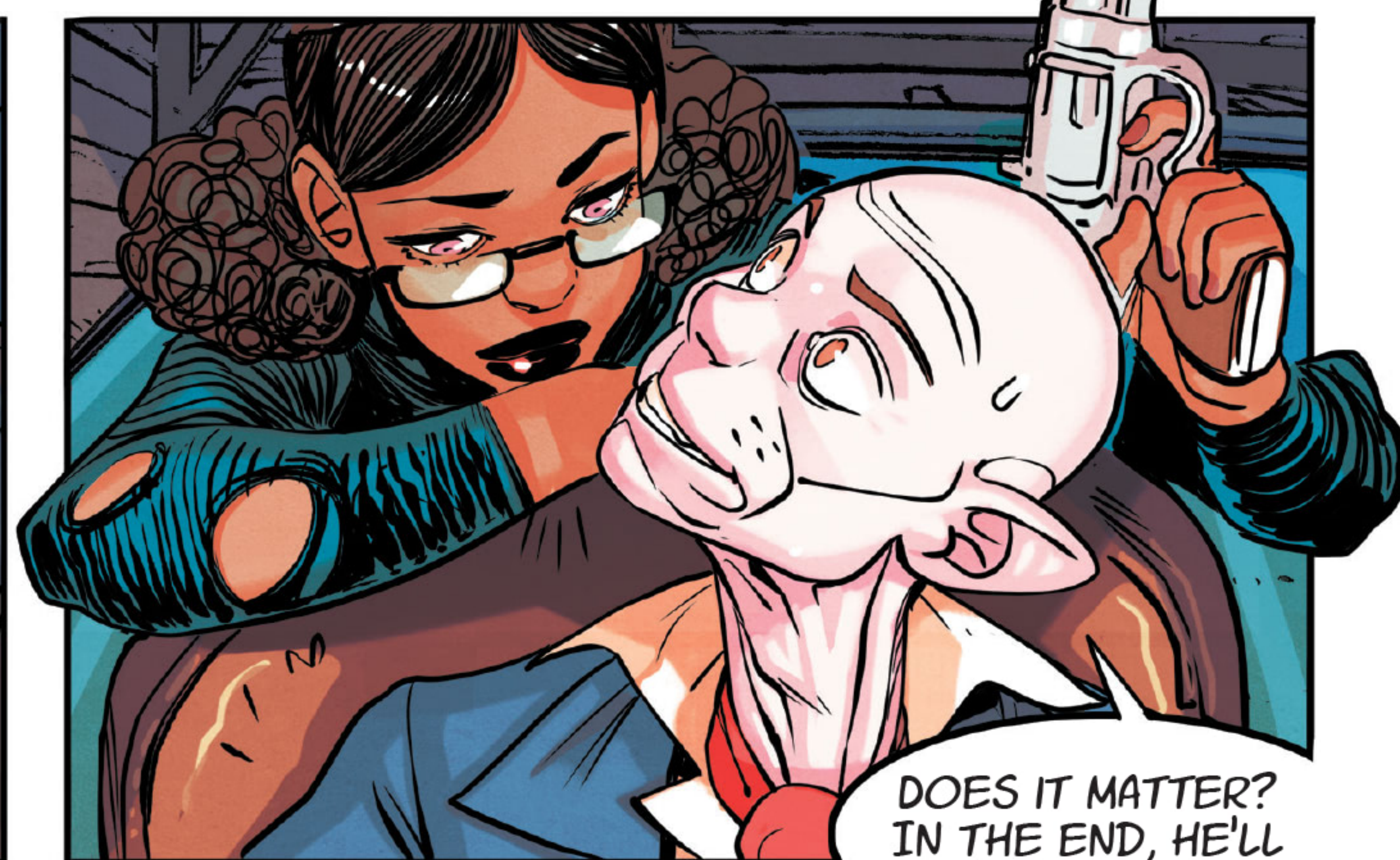
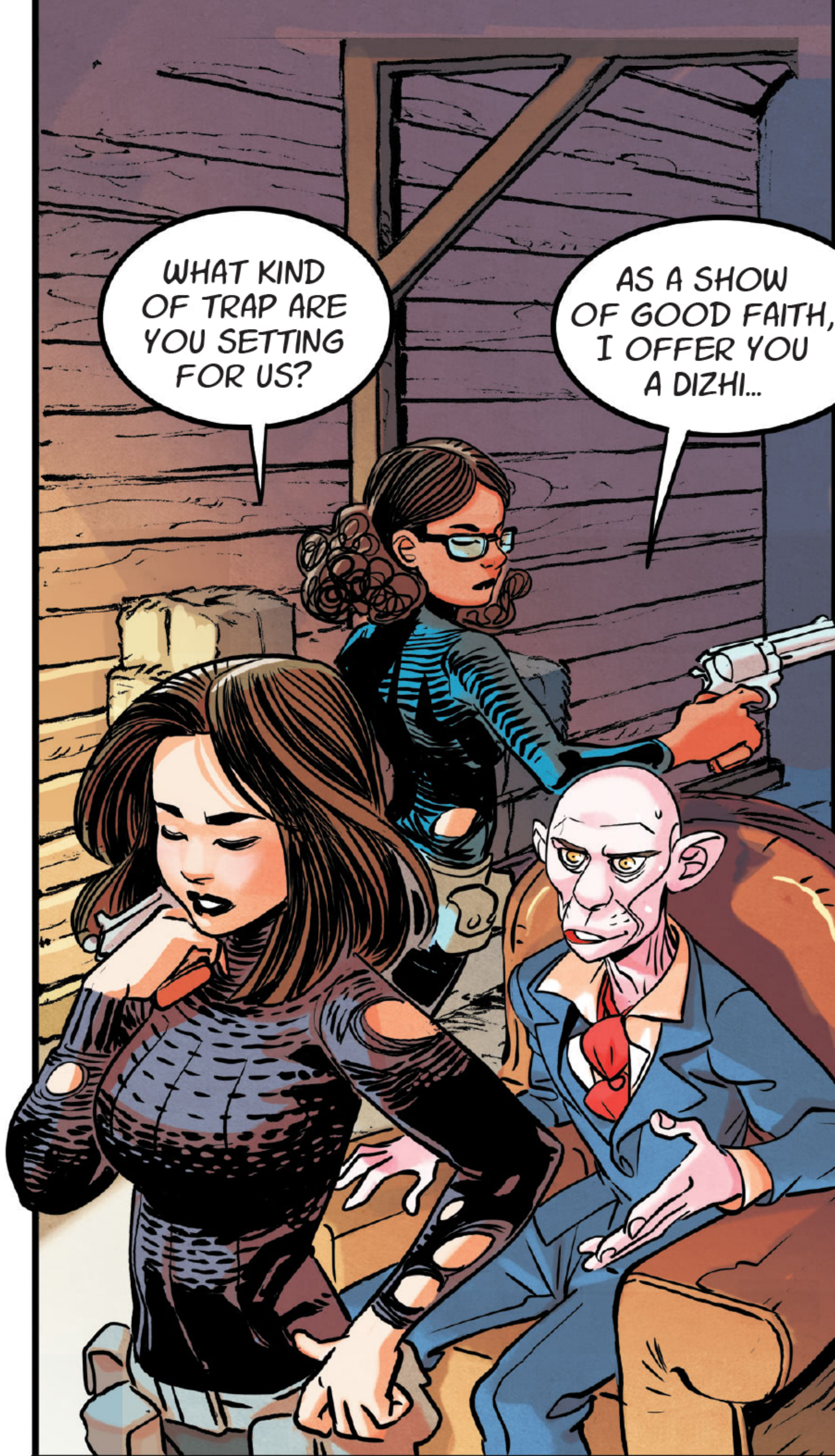
I KNOW YOU, SHAAZ. I REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE THE CAT...

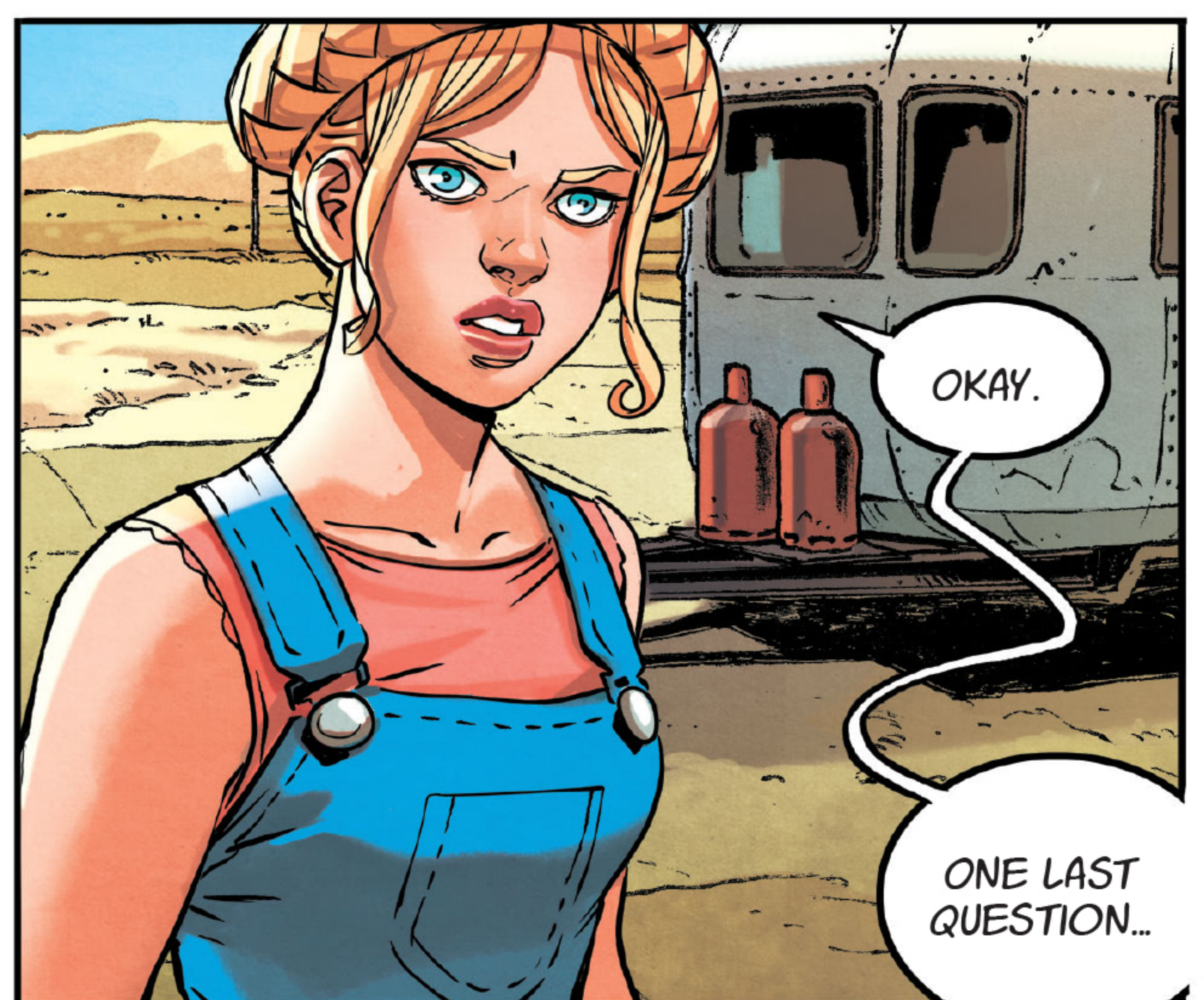
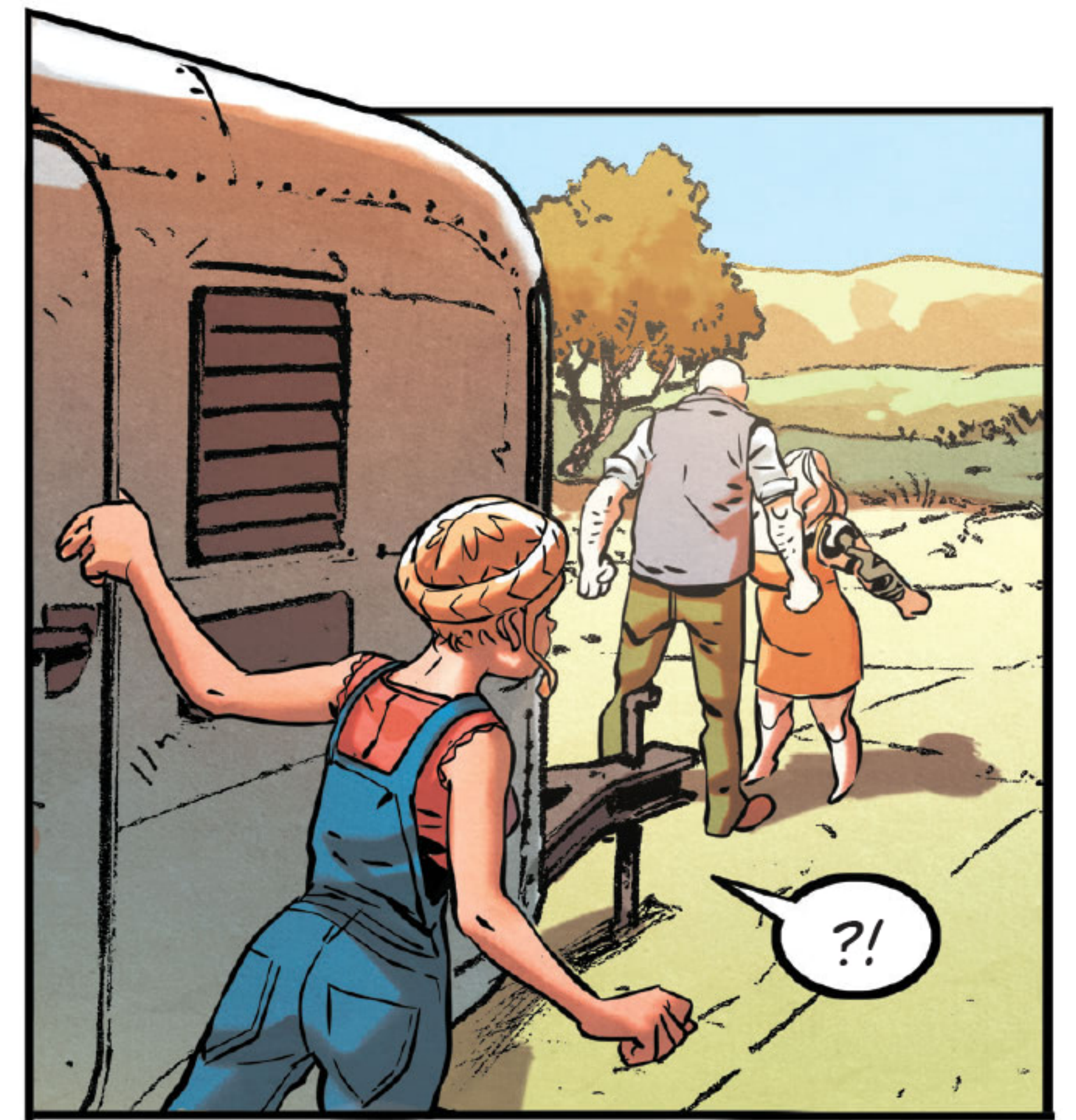
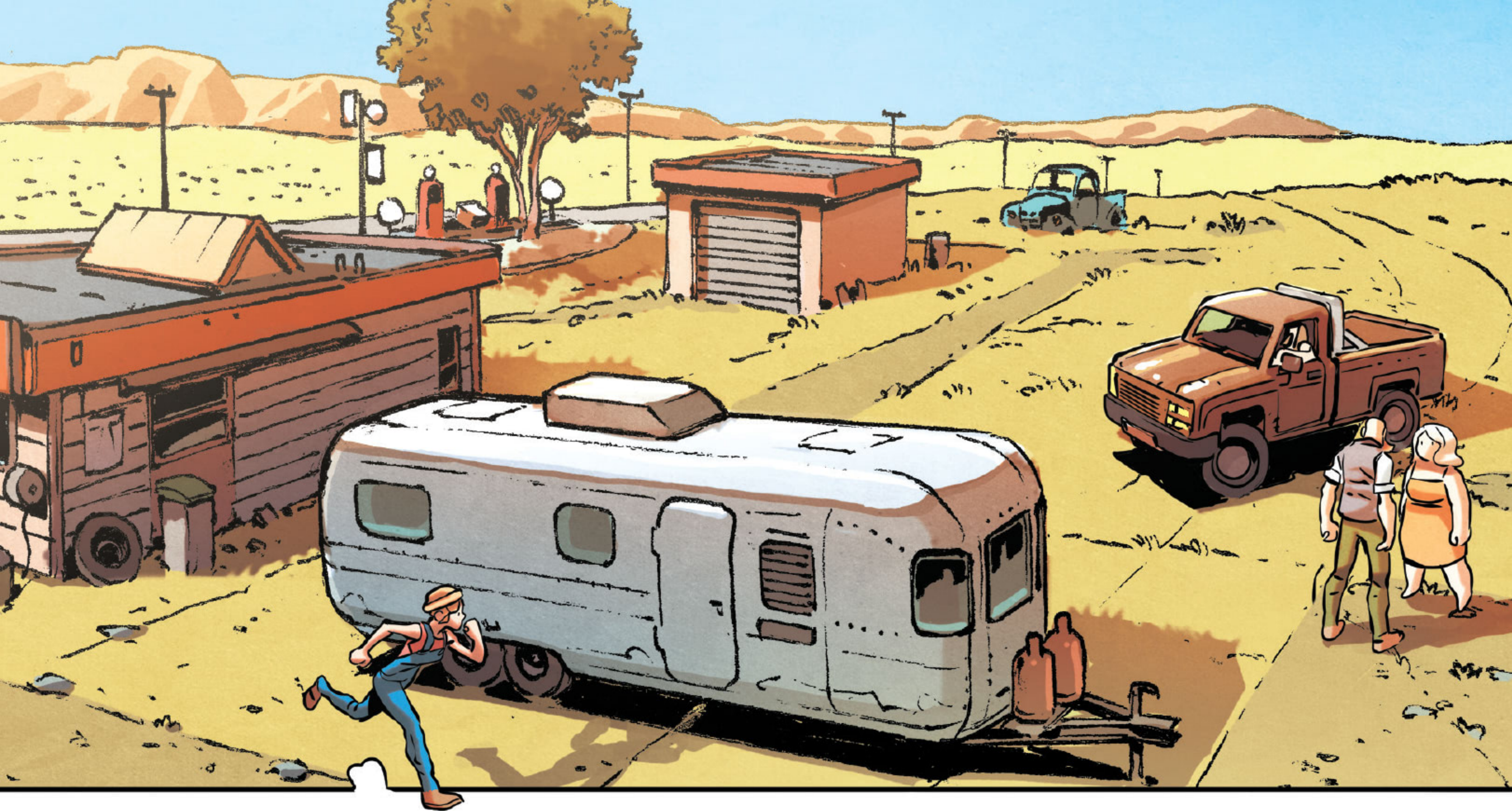


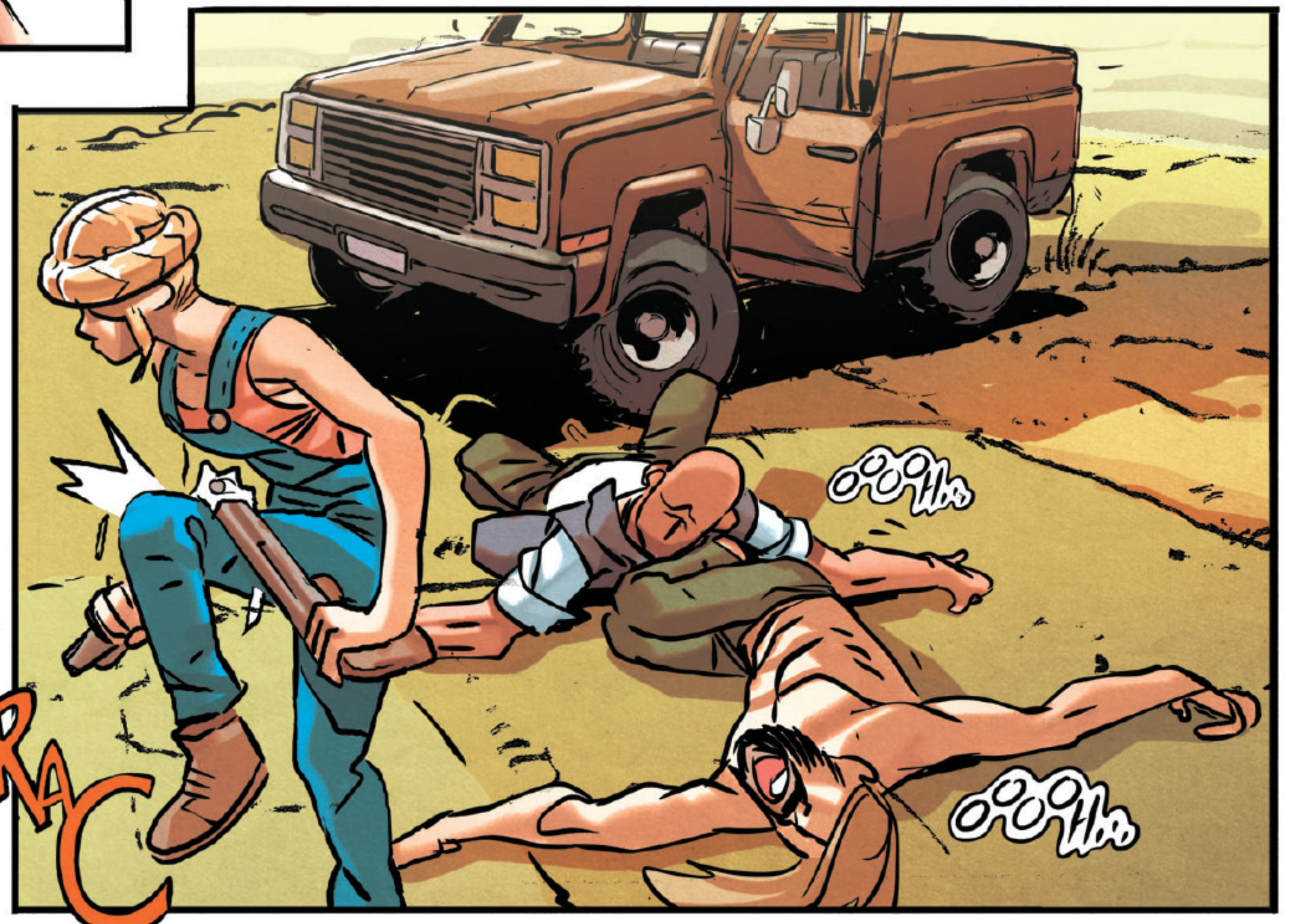
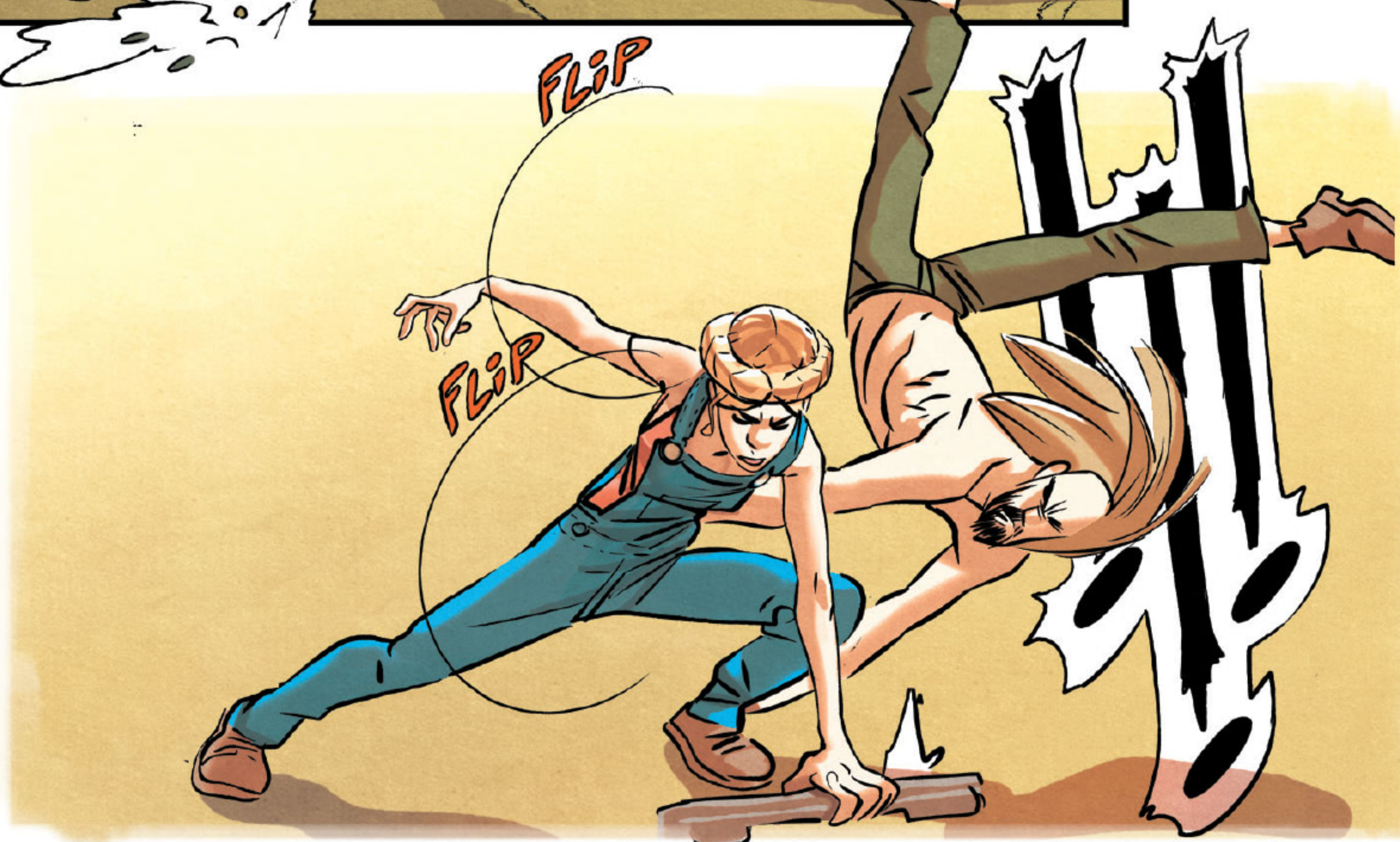
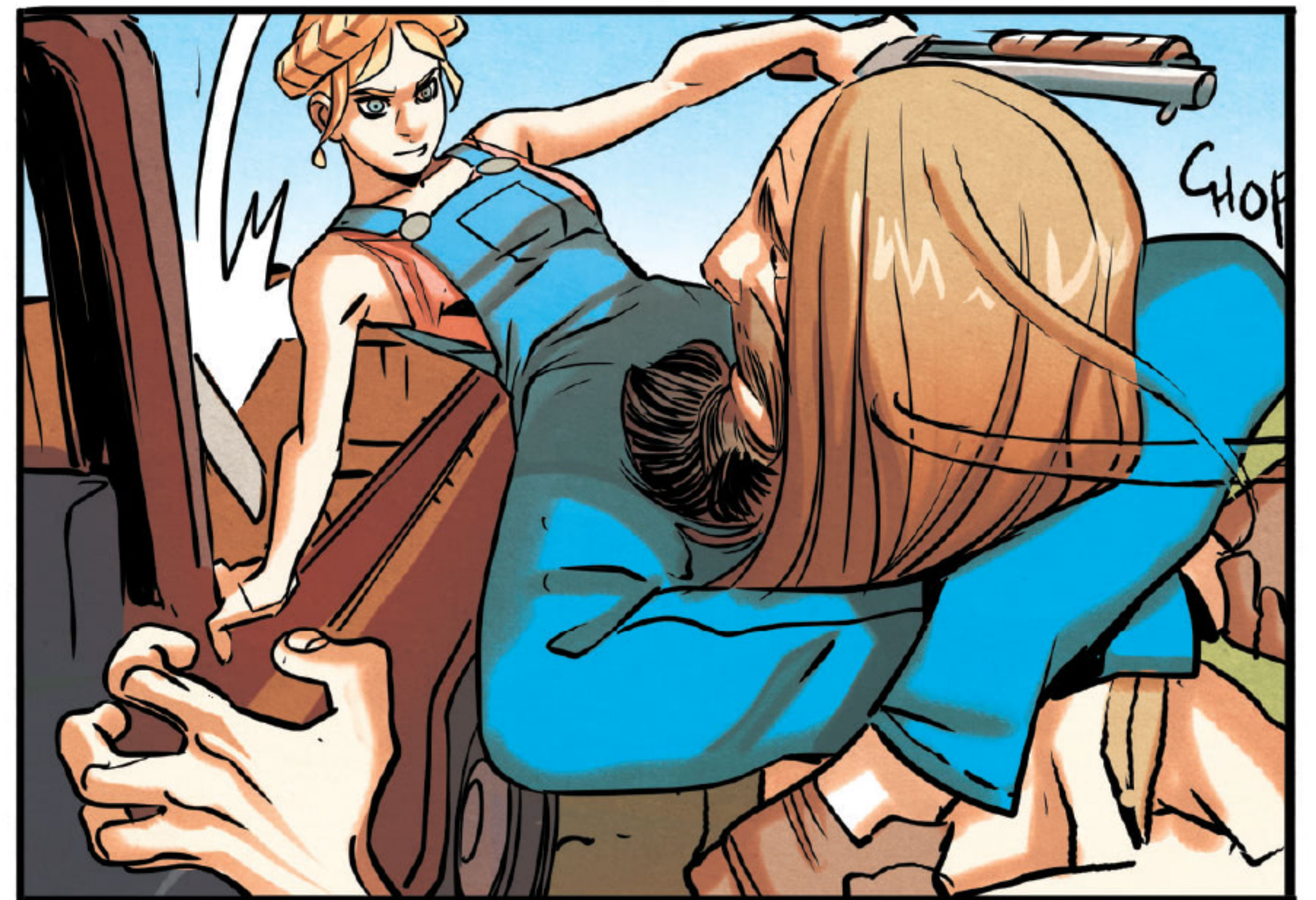
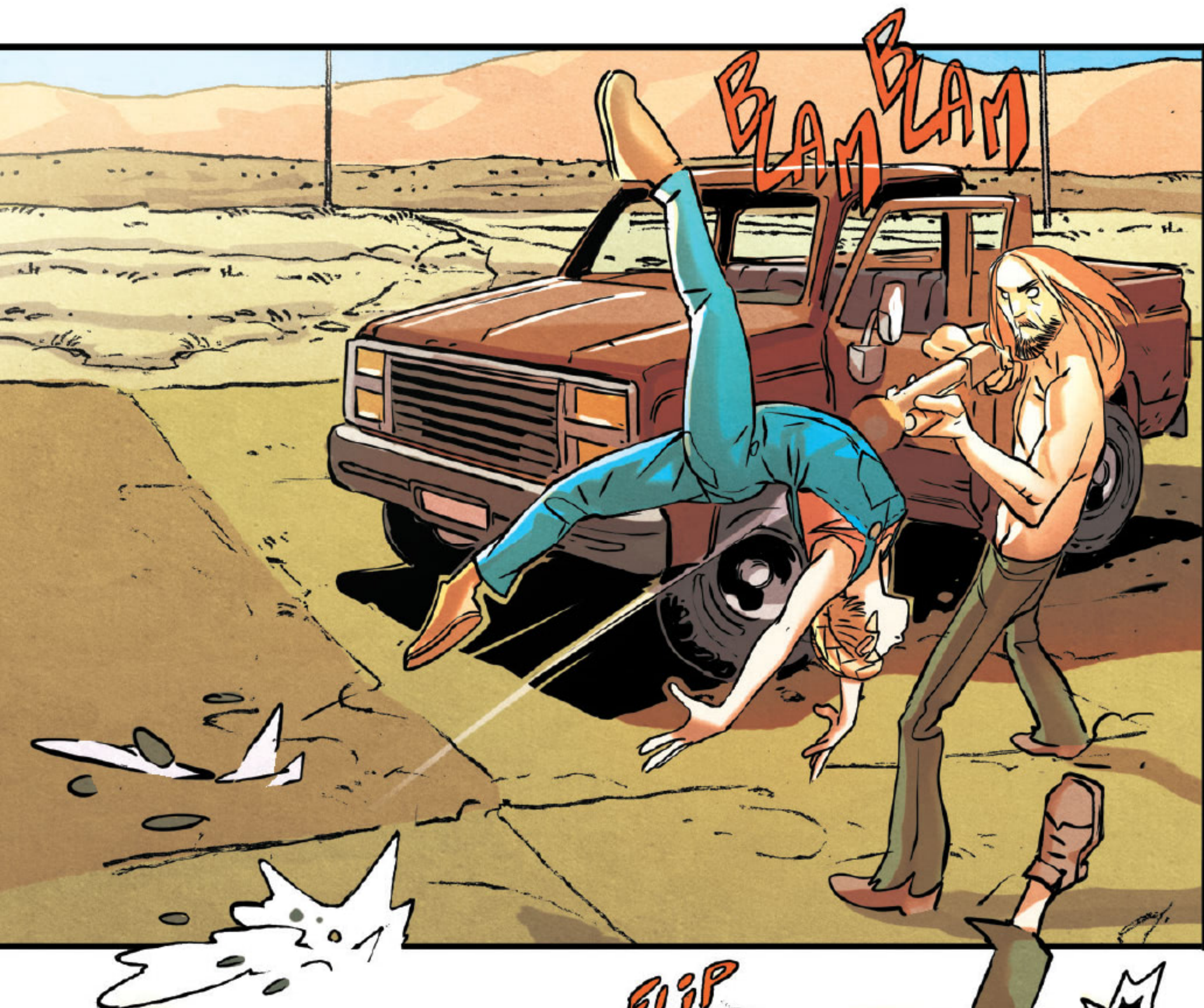
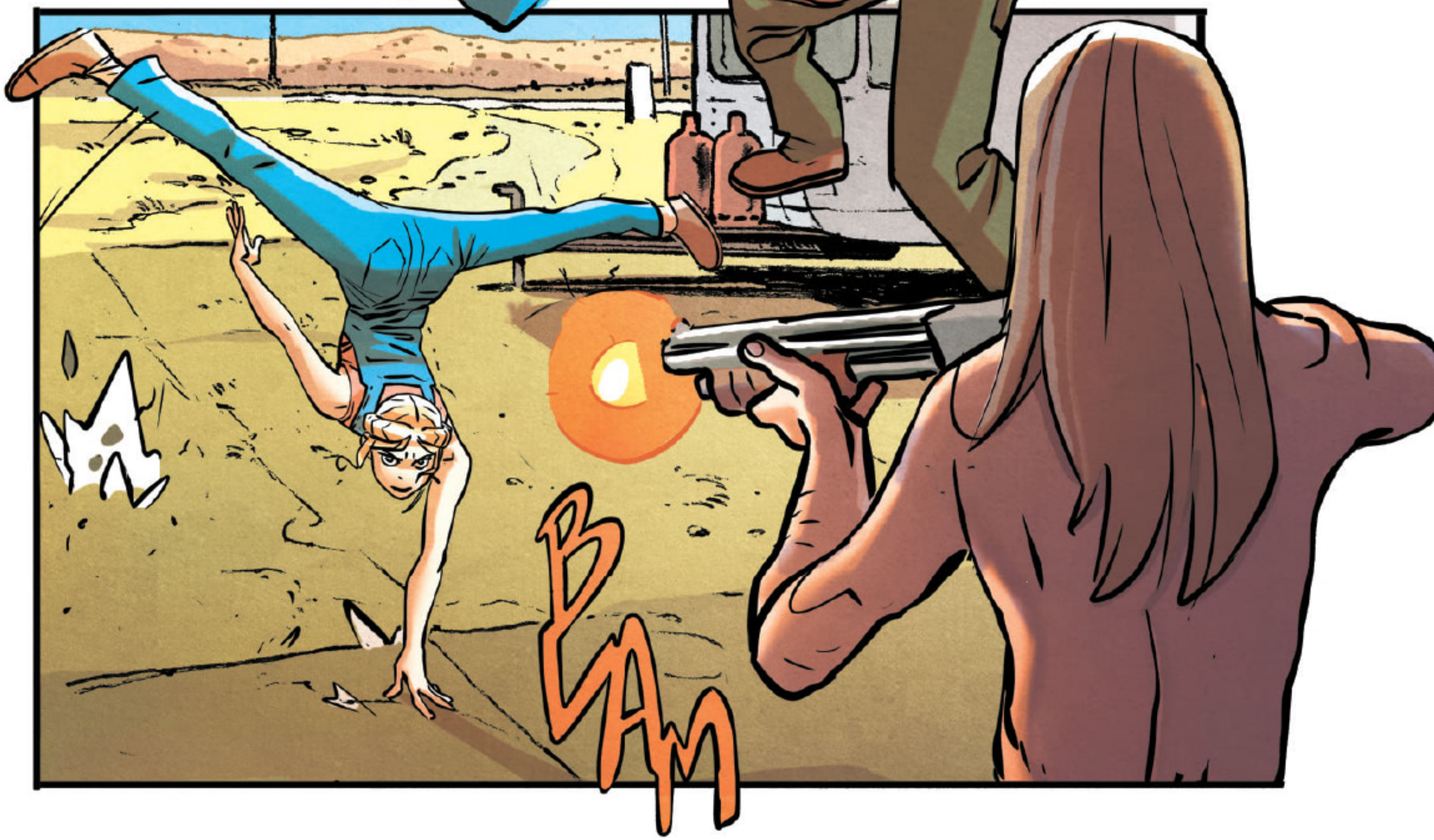
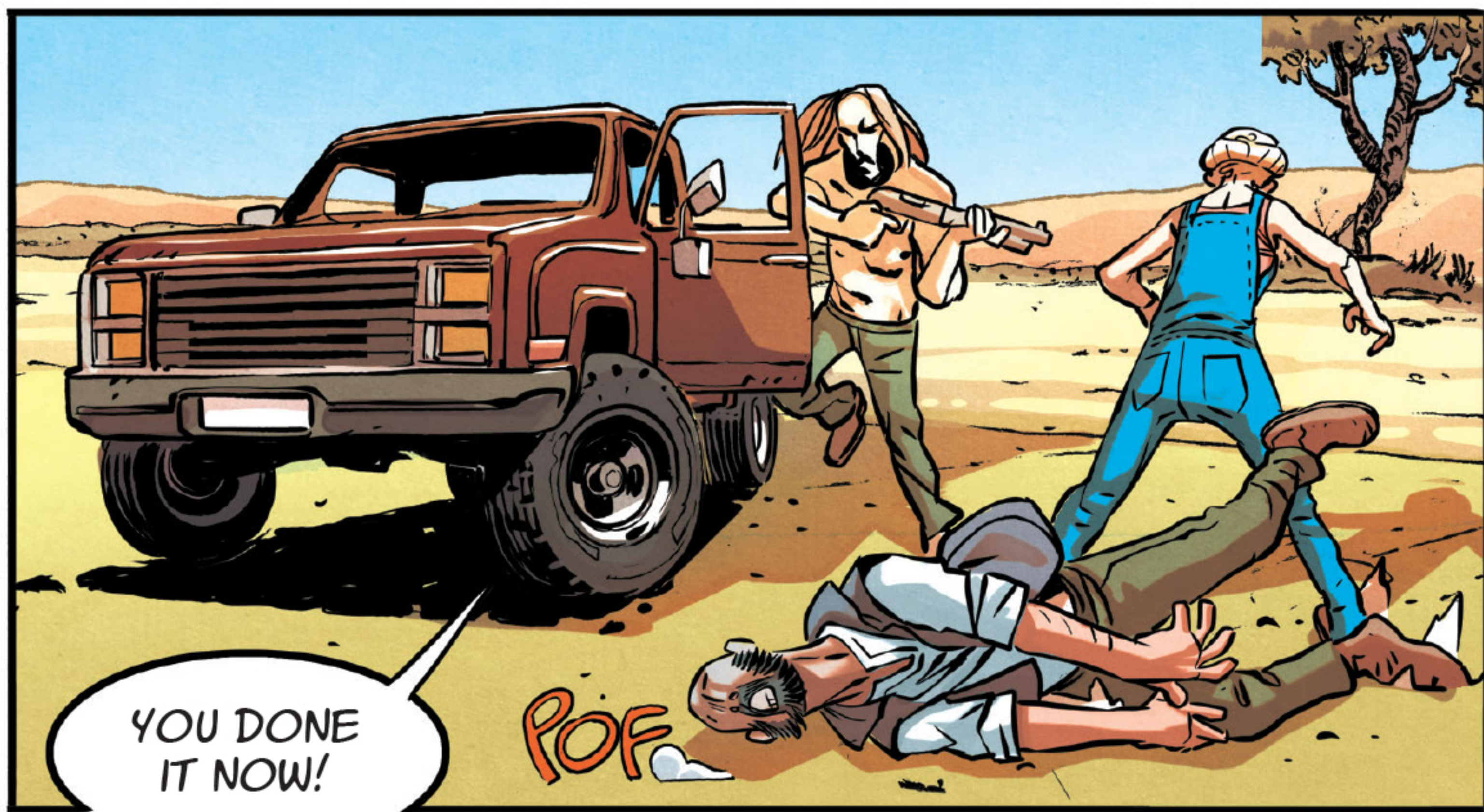
...SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?



I'VE COME TO PROPOSE AN ALLIANCE.









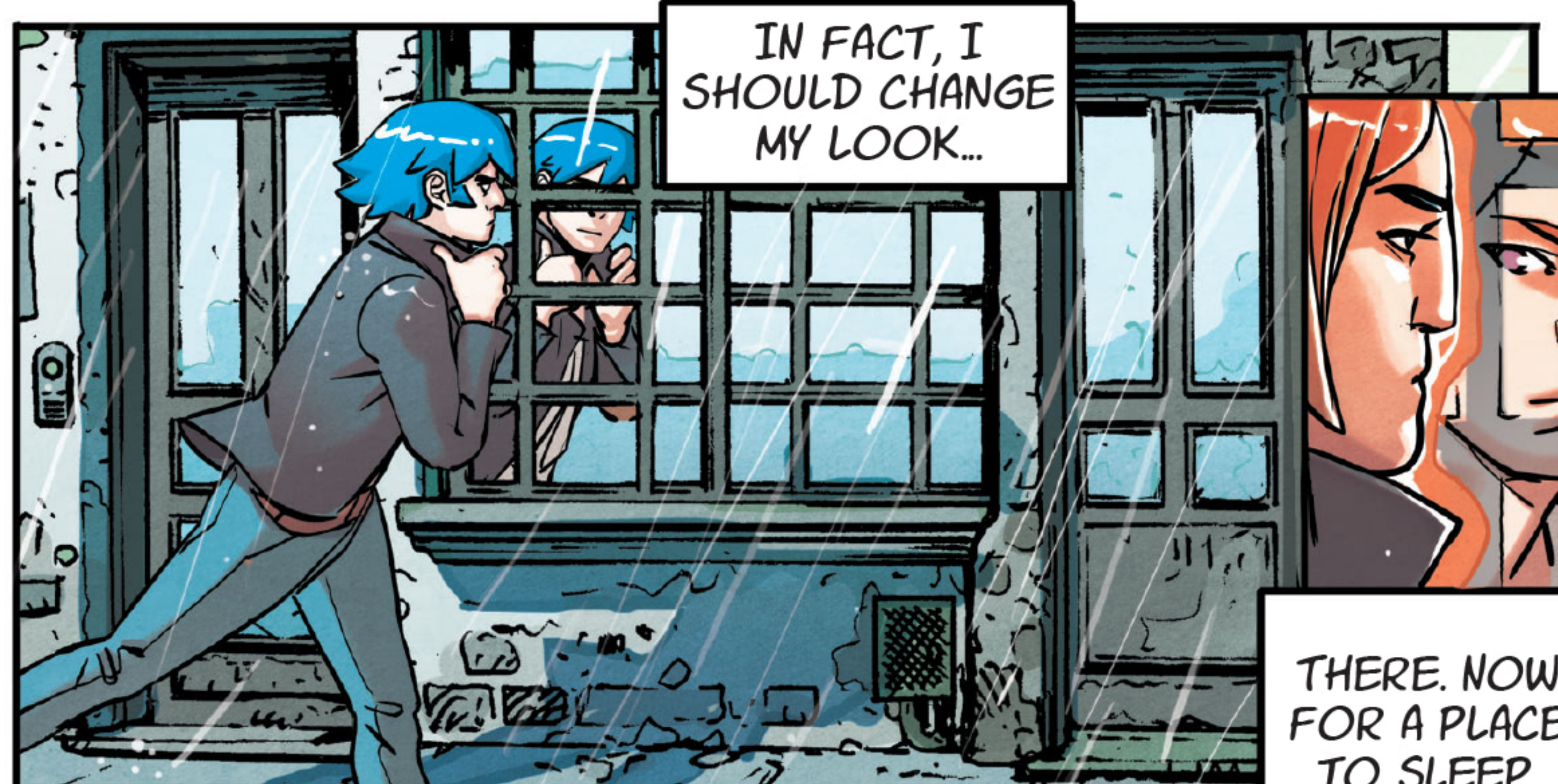
AFTER A LOT OF DELIBERATION, I DECIDED DETROIT WAS THE RIGHT PLACE TO GO.



A LOT OF PEOPLE CONSIDER IT A GHOST TOWN. IT'S PRETTY ABANDONED LATELY.

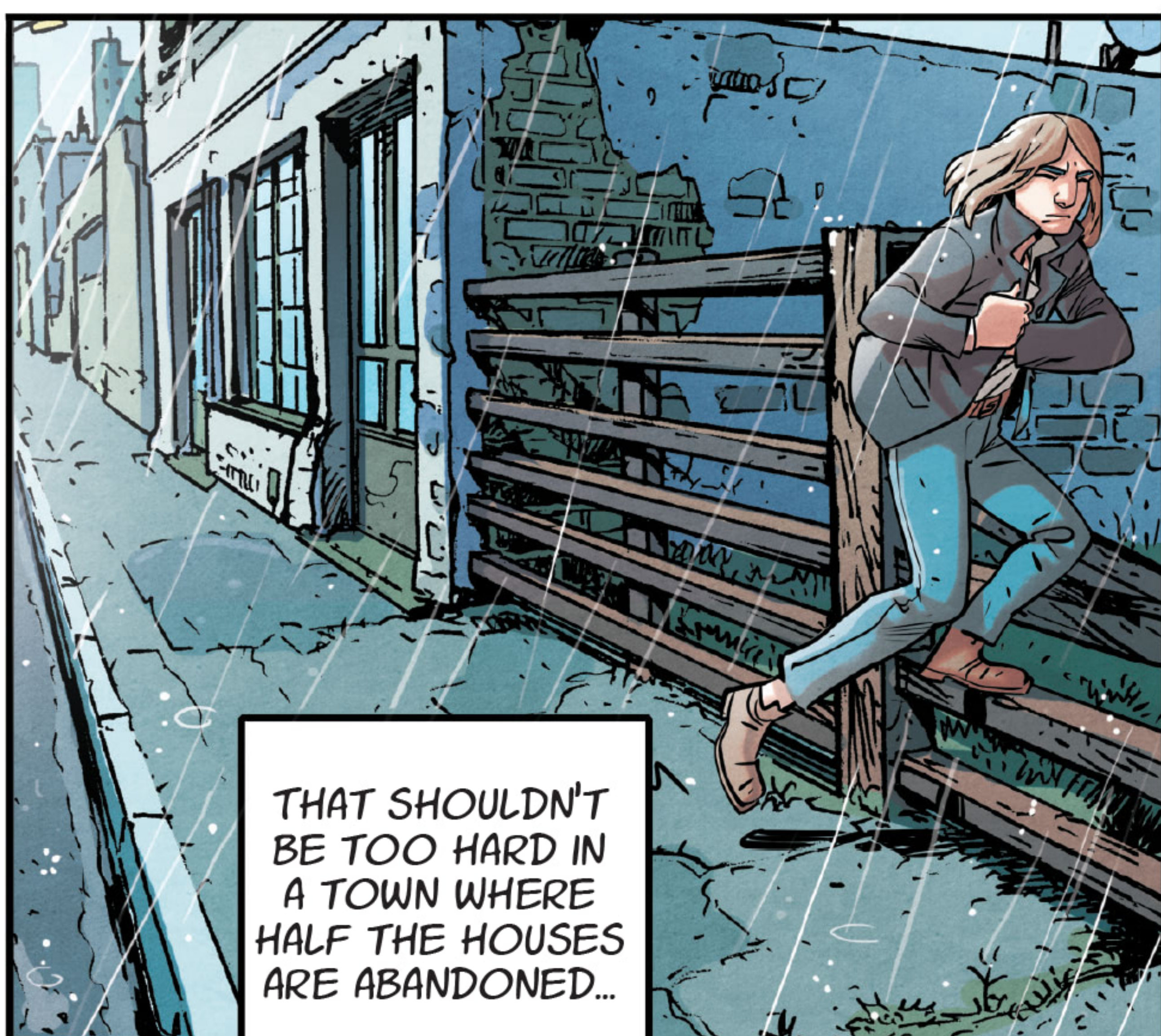


PERFECT FOR SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO DISAPPEAR.



IN FACT, I SHOULD CHANGE MY LOOK...

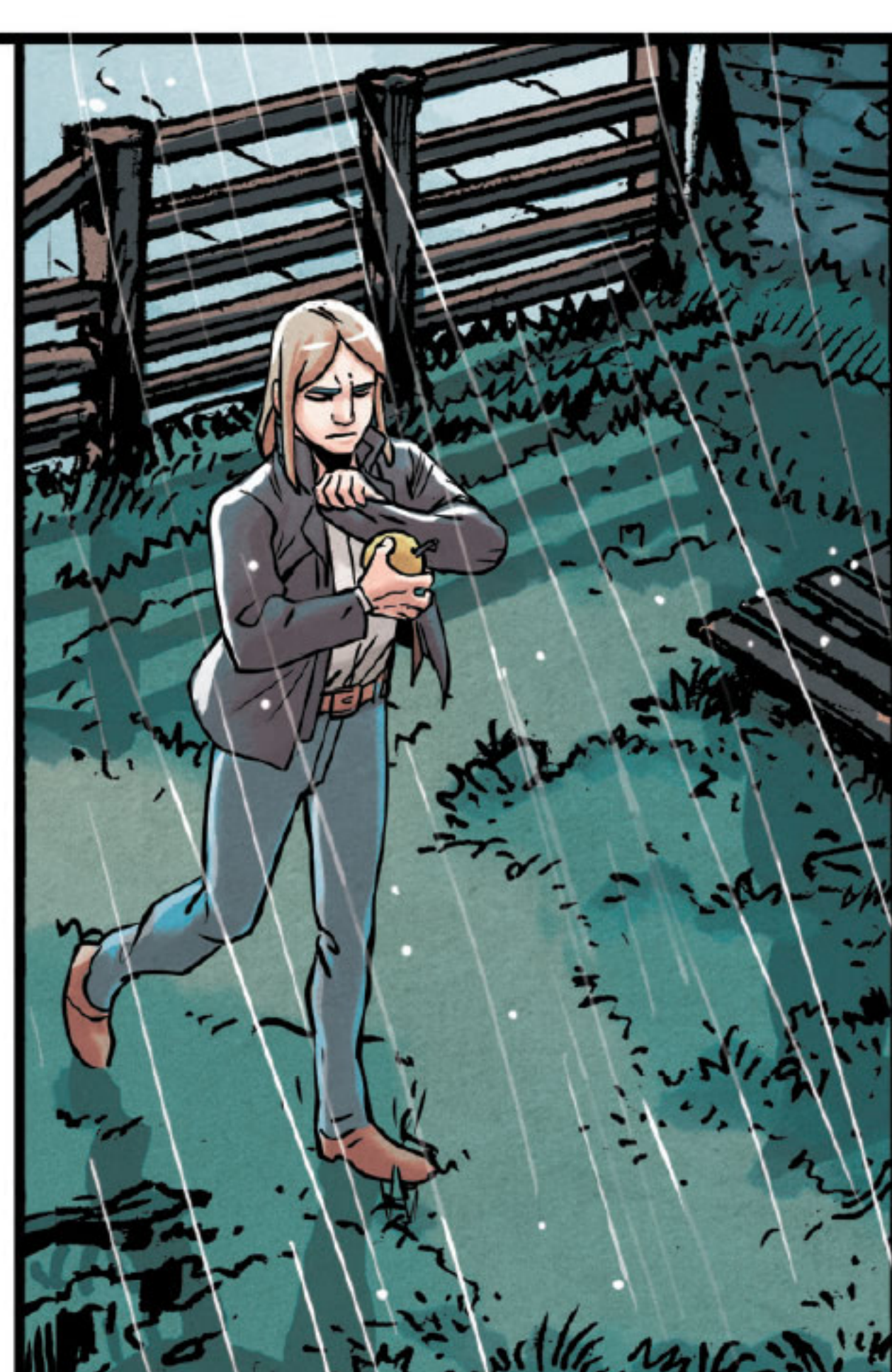
THERE. NOW FOR A PLACE TO SLEEP.



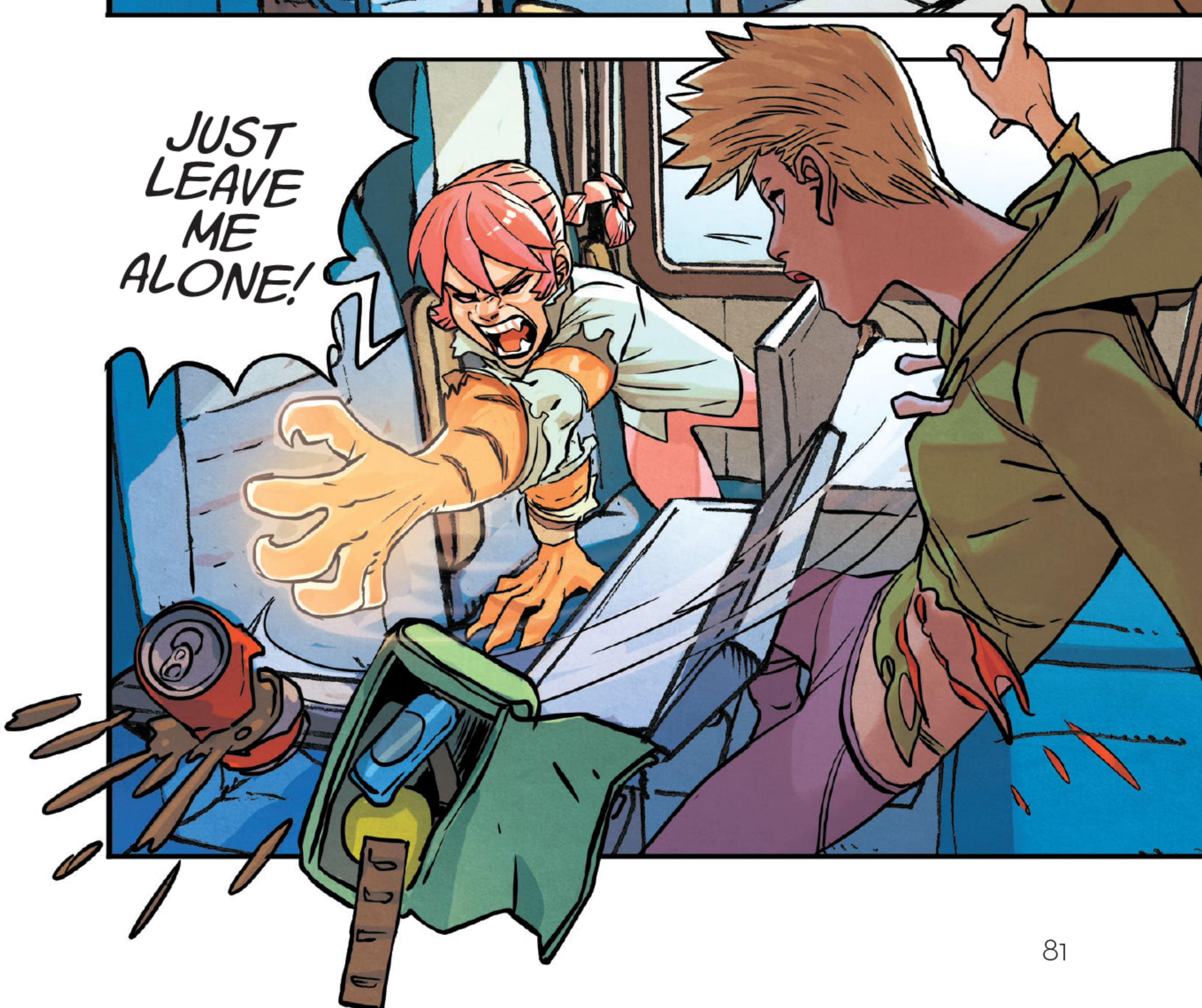
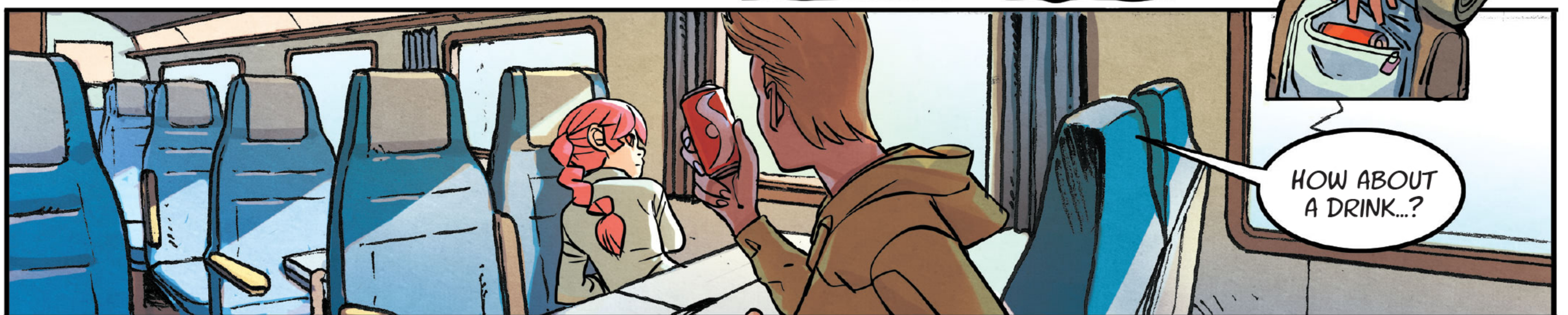
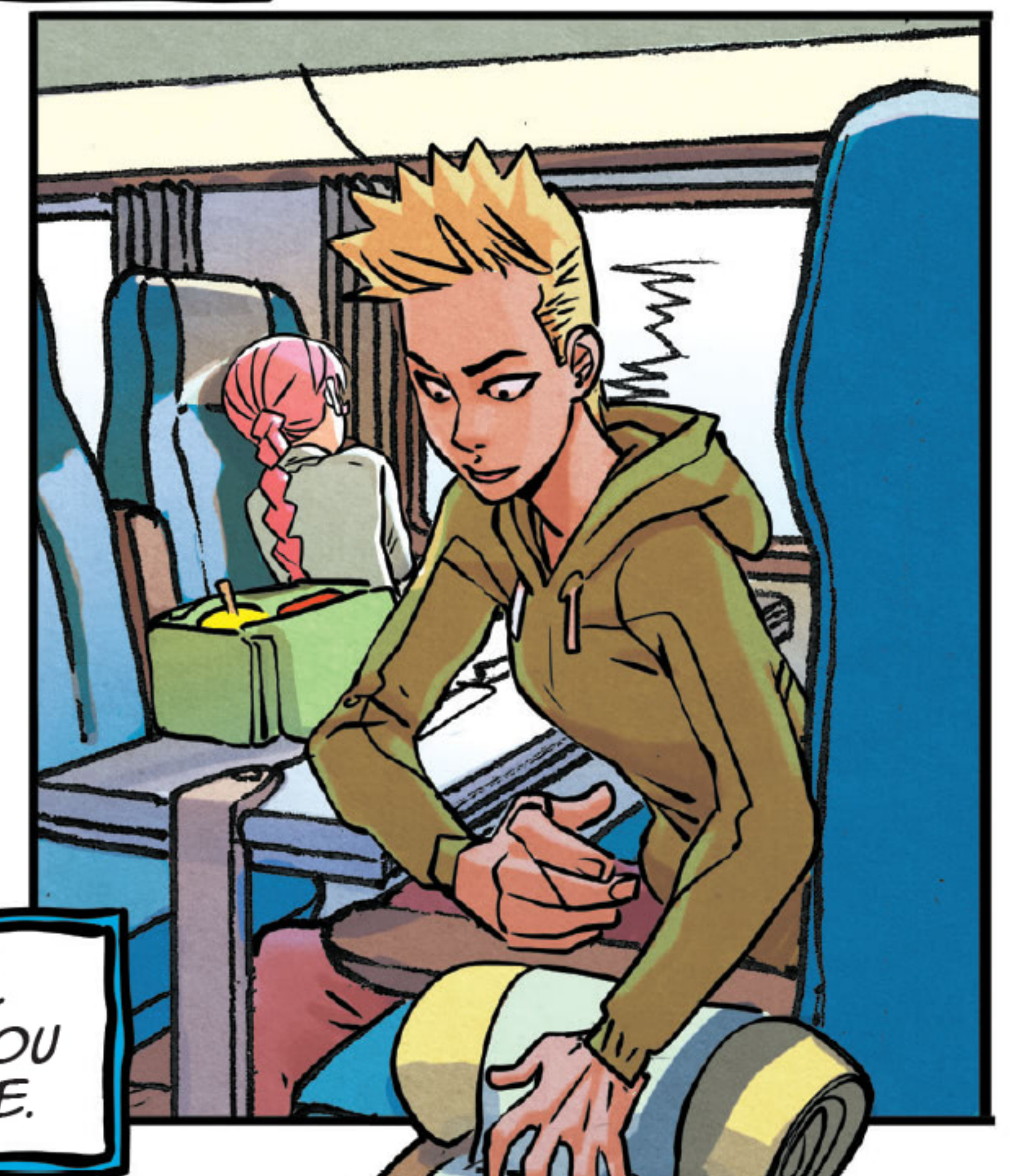
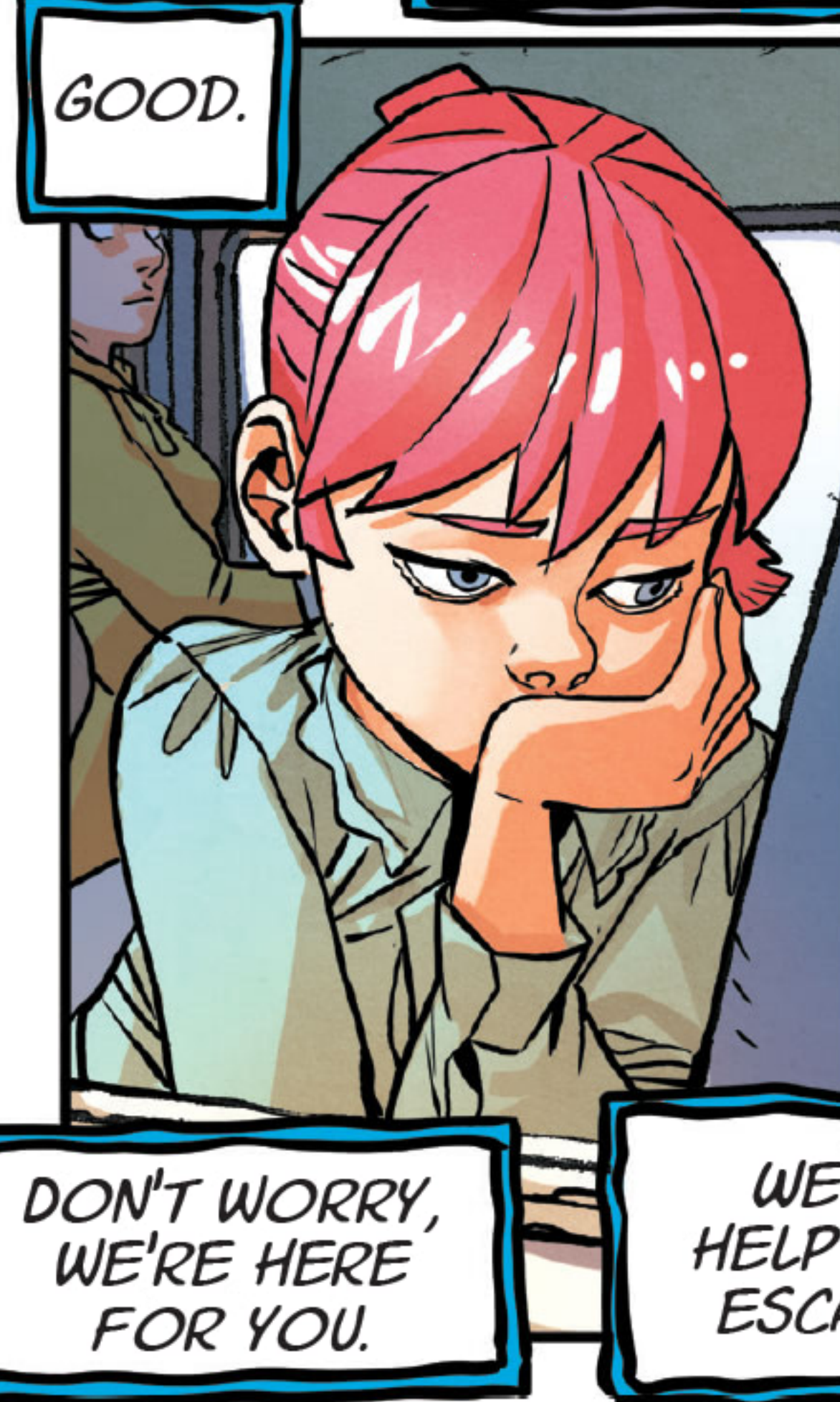
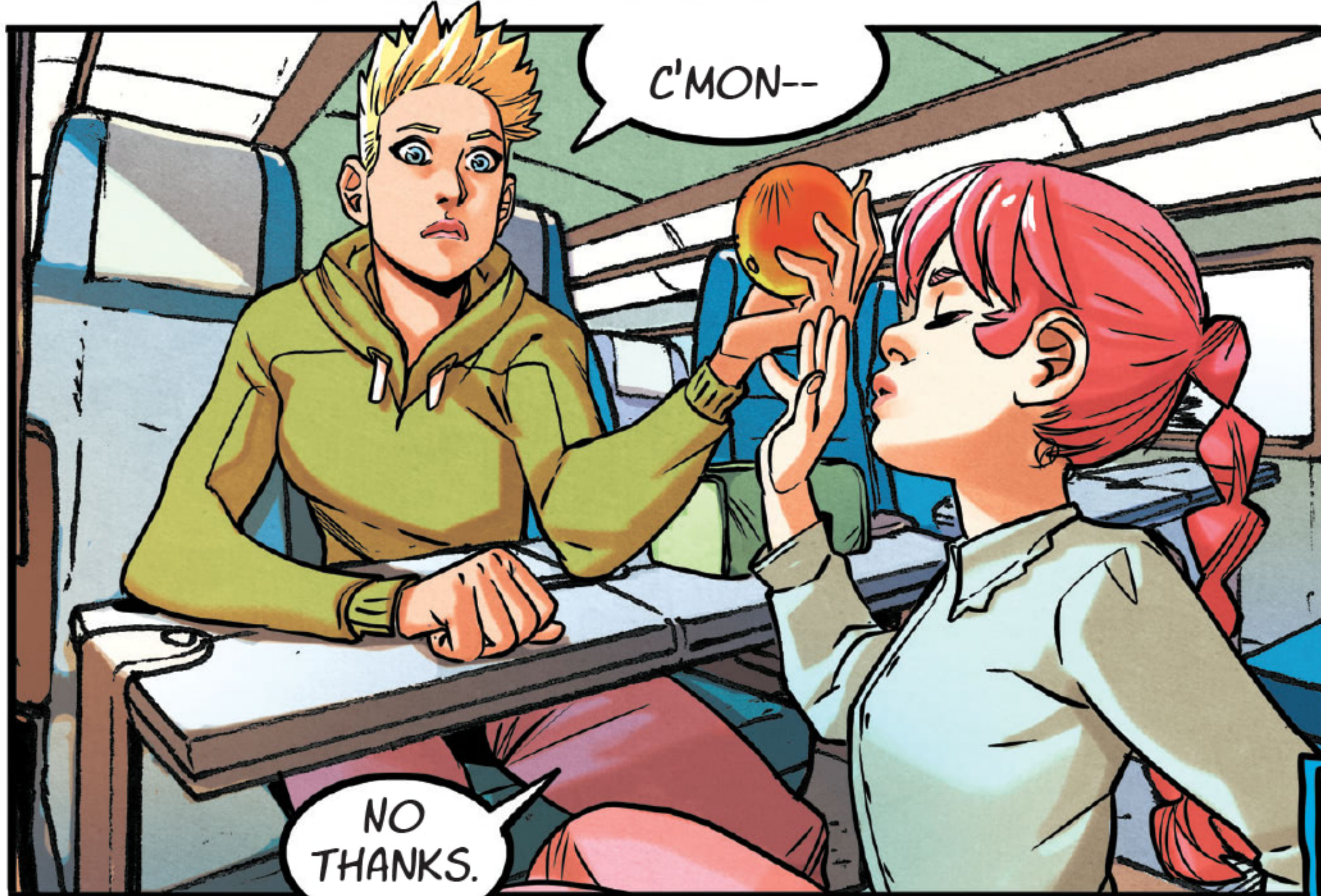
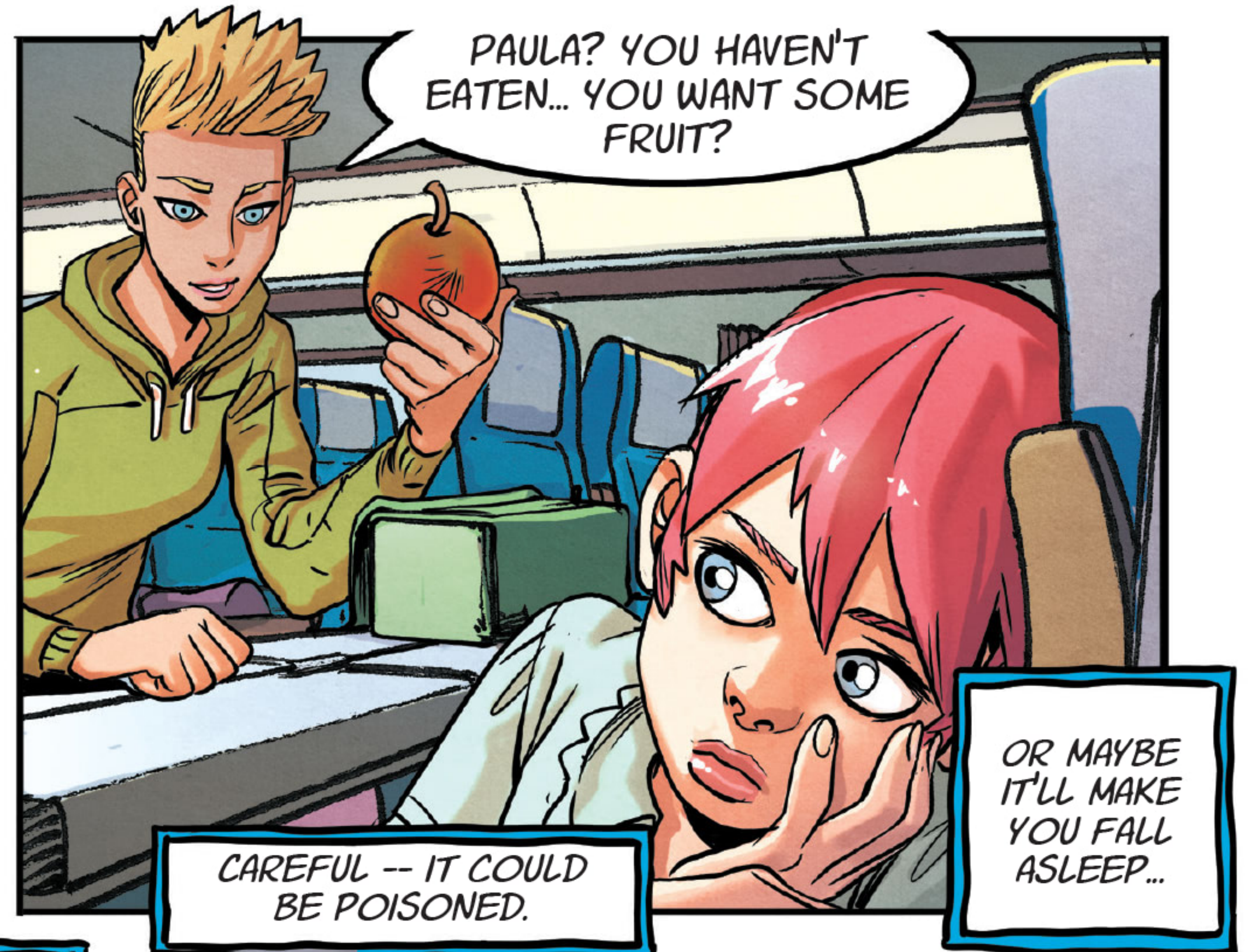
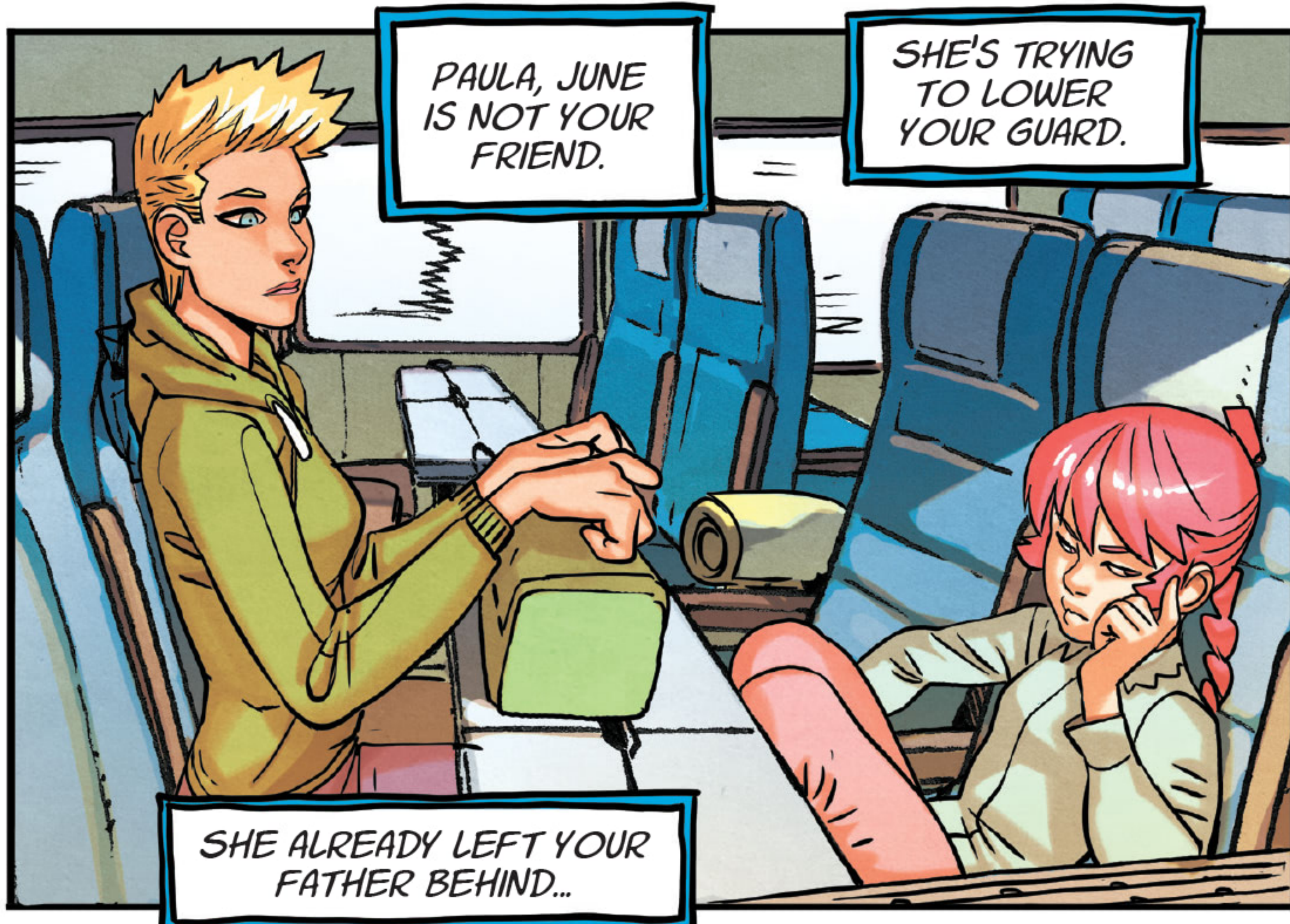
THAT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD IN A TOWN WHERE HALF THE HOUSES ARE ABANDONED...



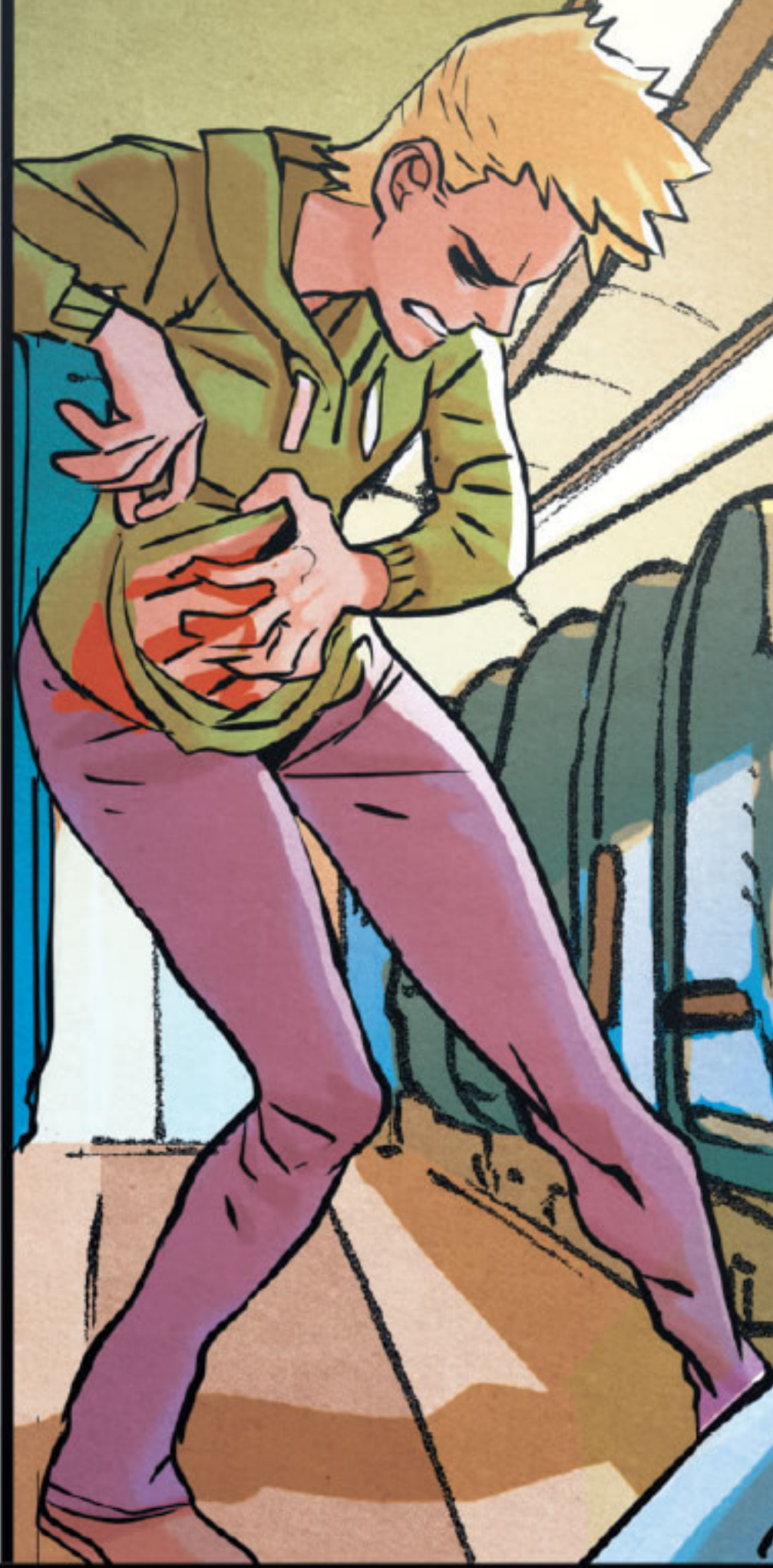
LIVING IN A SQUAT, STEALING TO EAT... NOT VERY LEGAL, BUT I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.



AND IT'D BE FUNNY IF "THE KLAU" TRIED TO STOP ME! SAVE ME FROM HAVING TO SEARCH FOR HIM NIGHT AFTER NIGHT...!

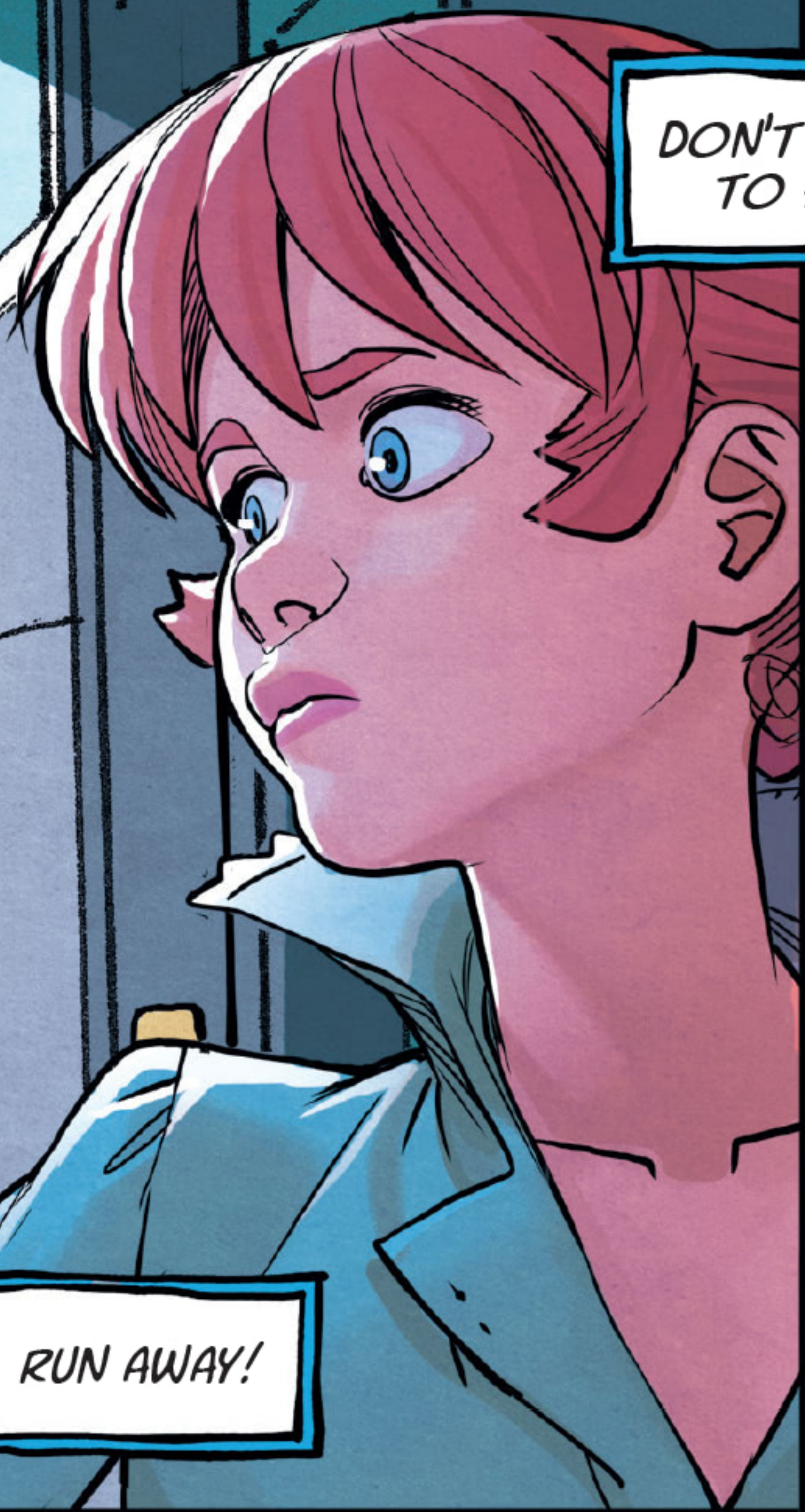


SHE CAN'T FOLLOW YOU!

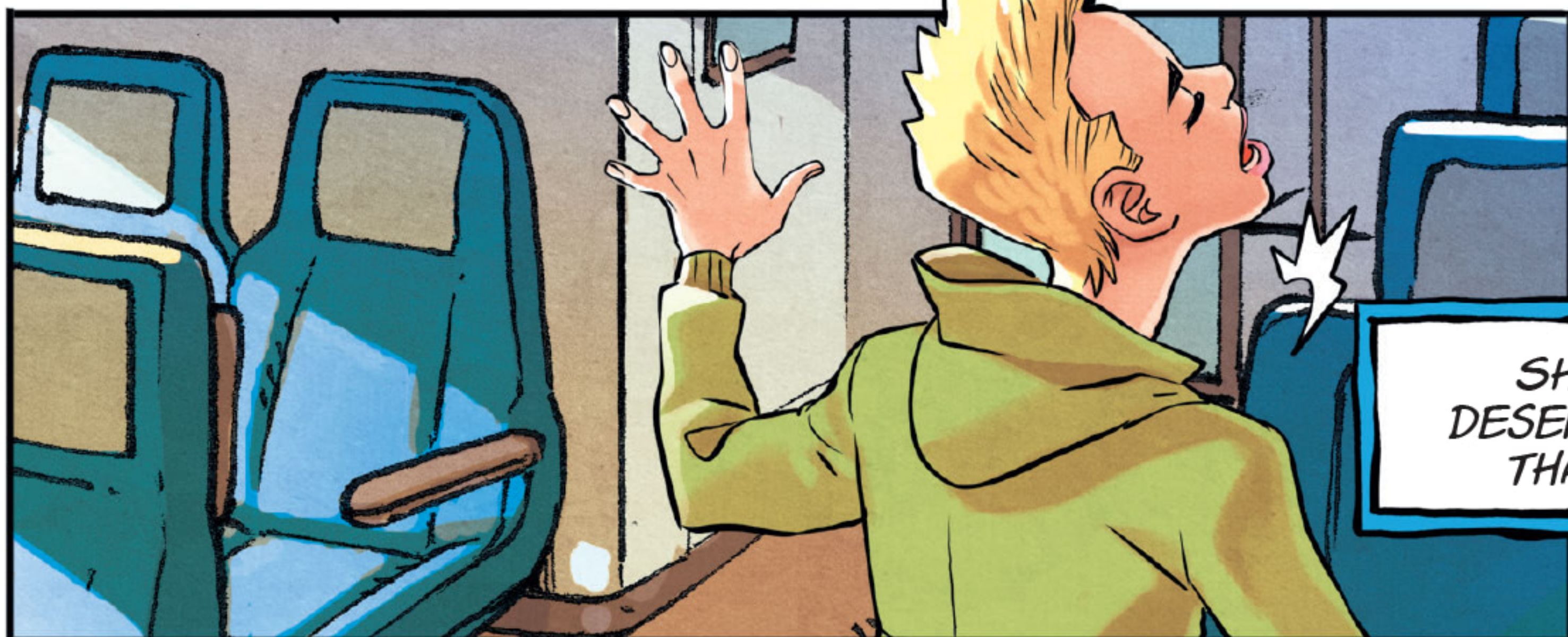
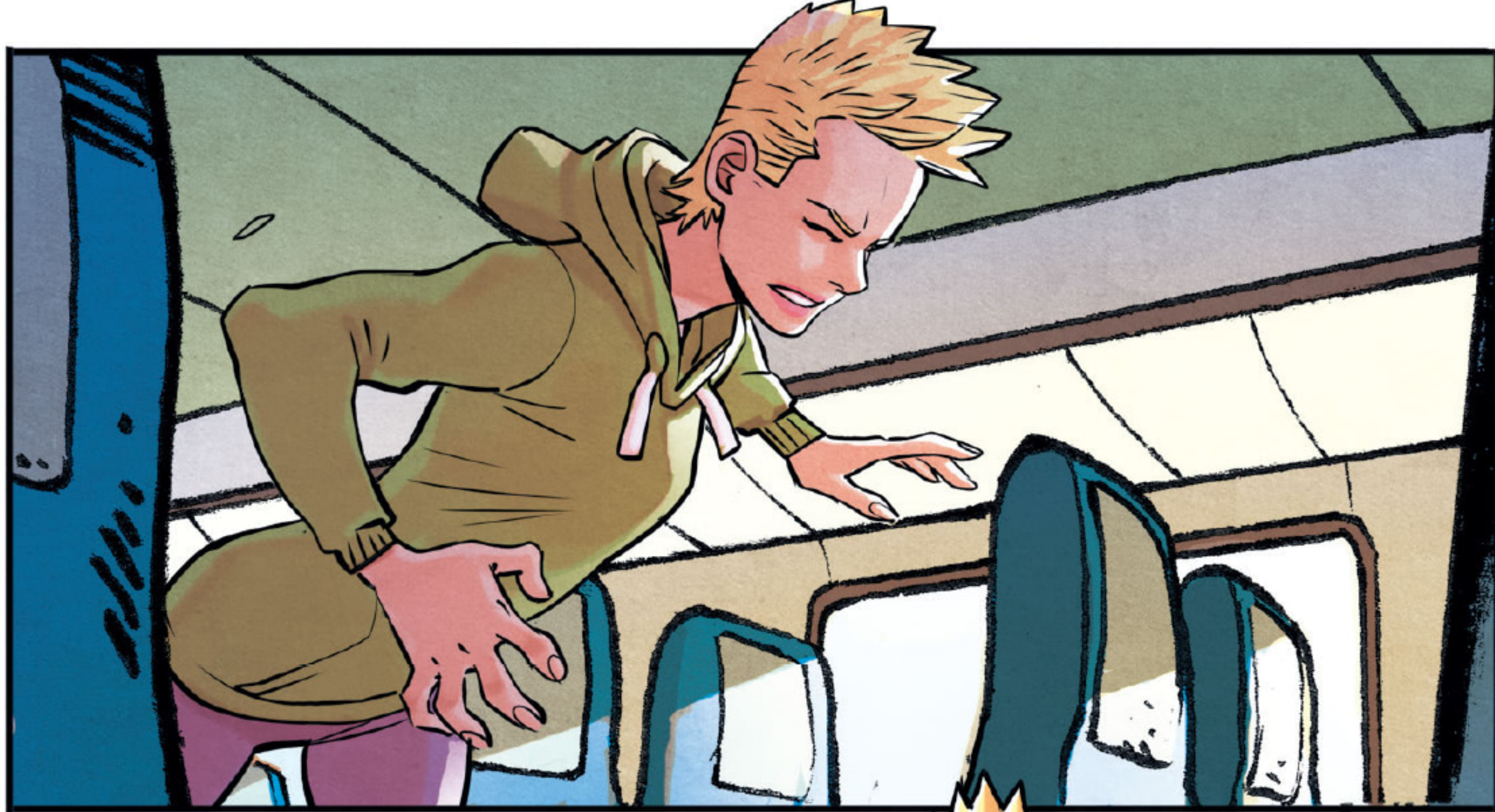
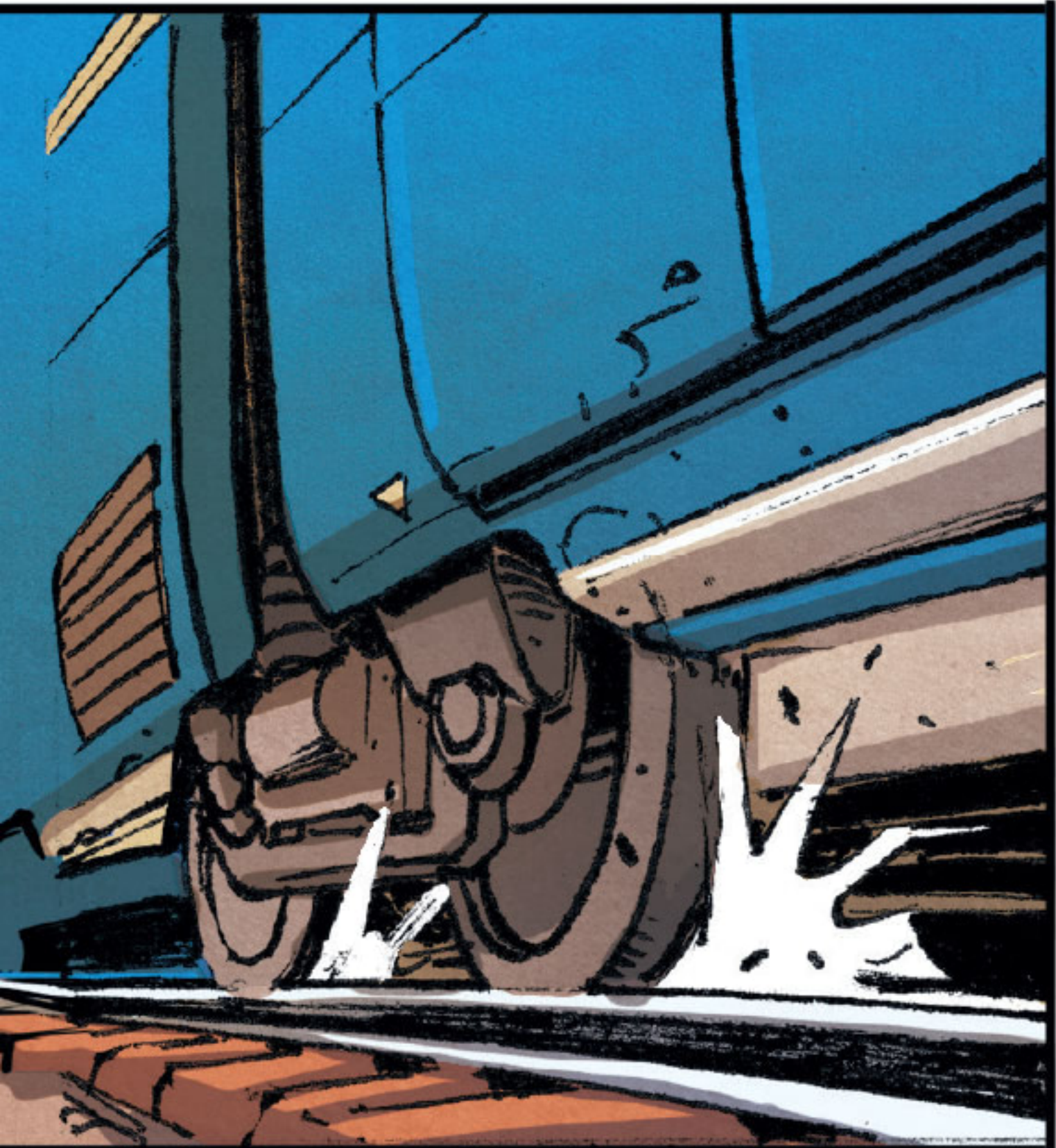
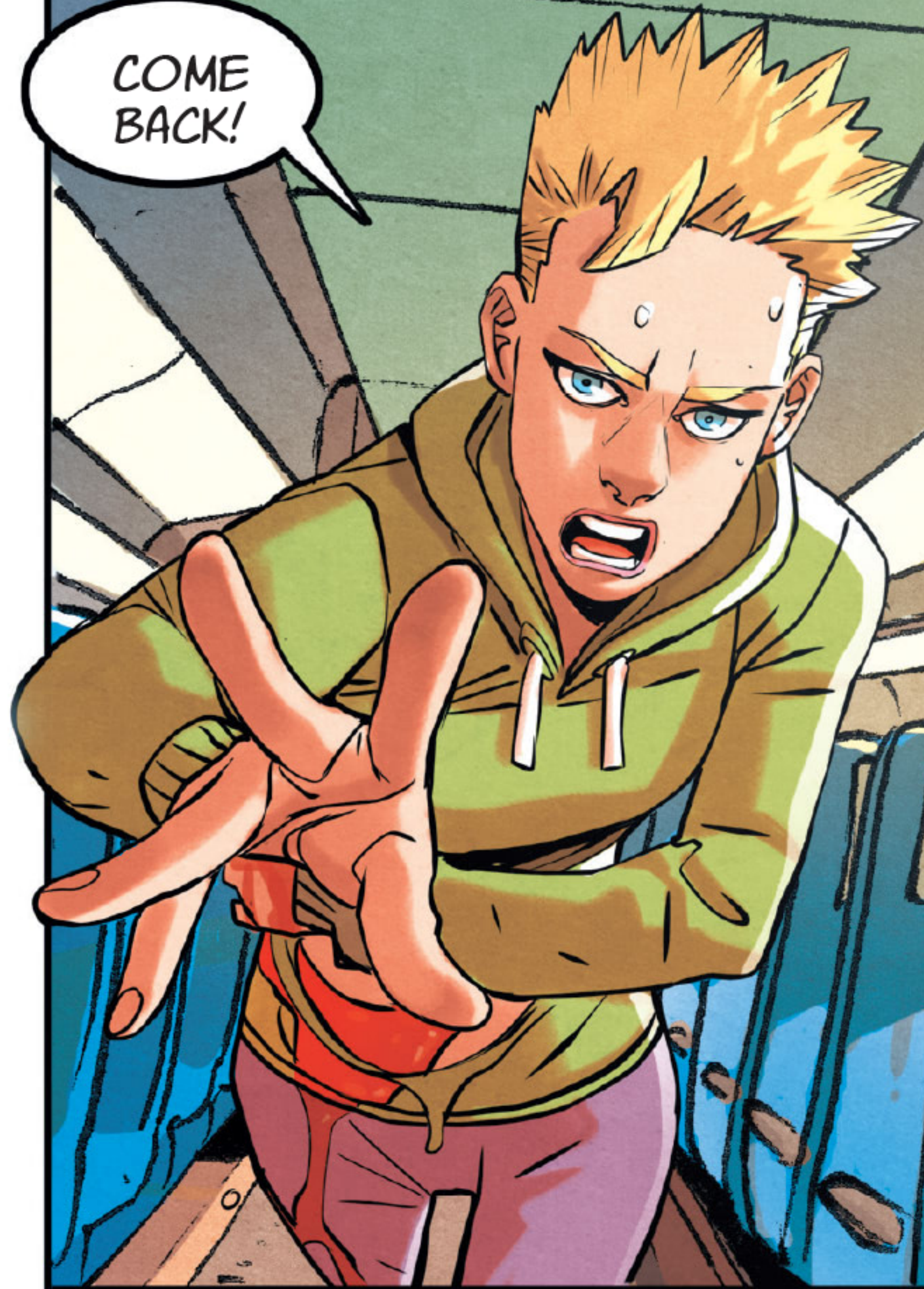


DON'T LISTEN TO HER!

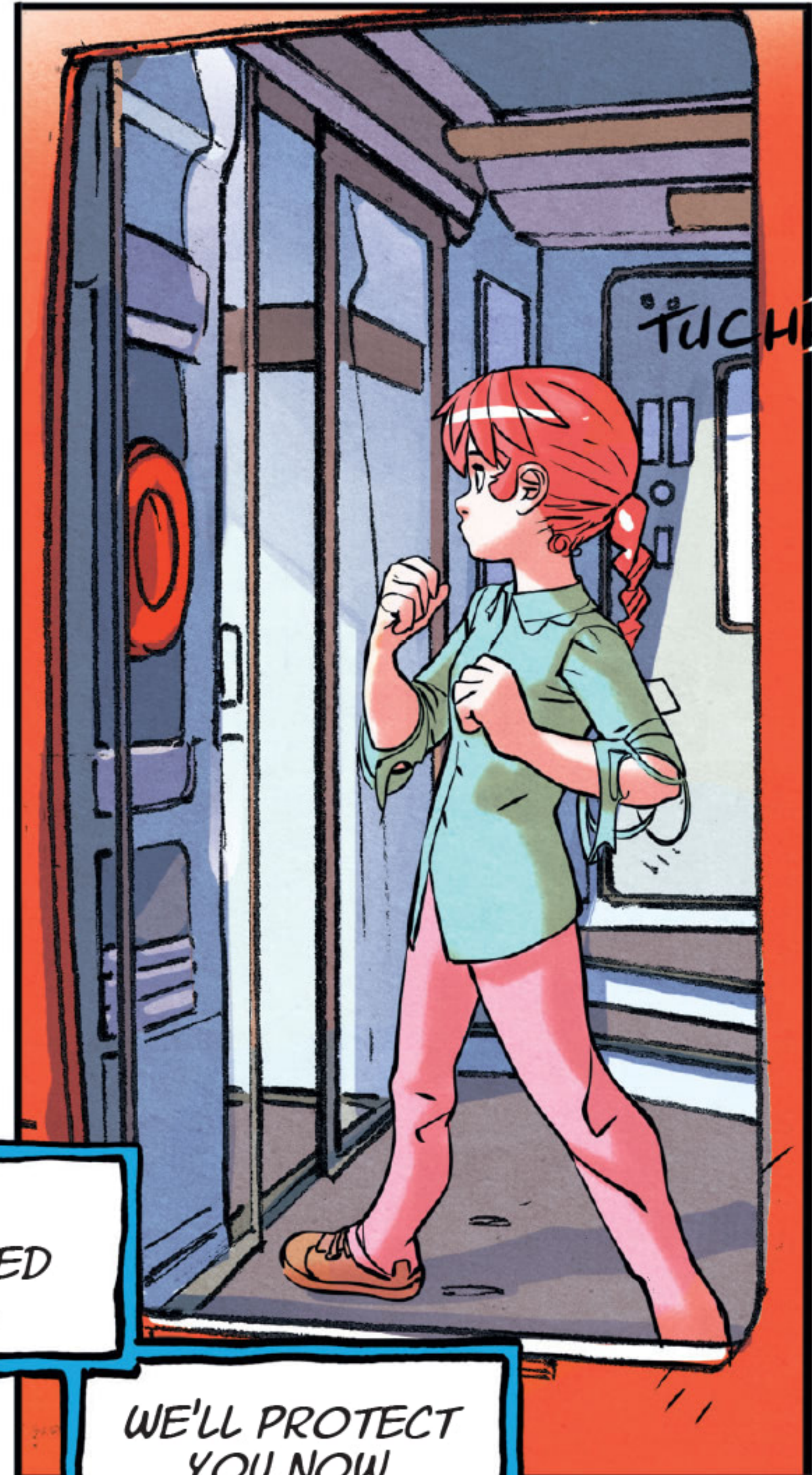
RUN AWAY!



COME BACK!



SHE DESERVED THAT.

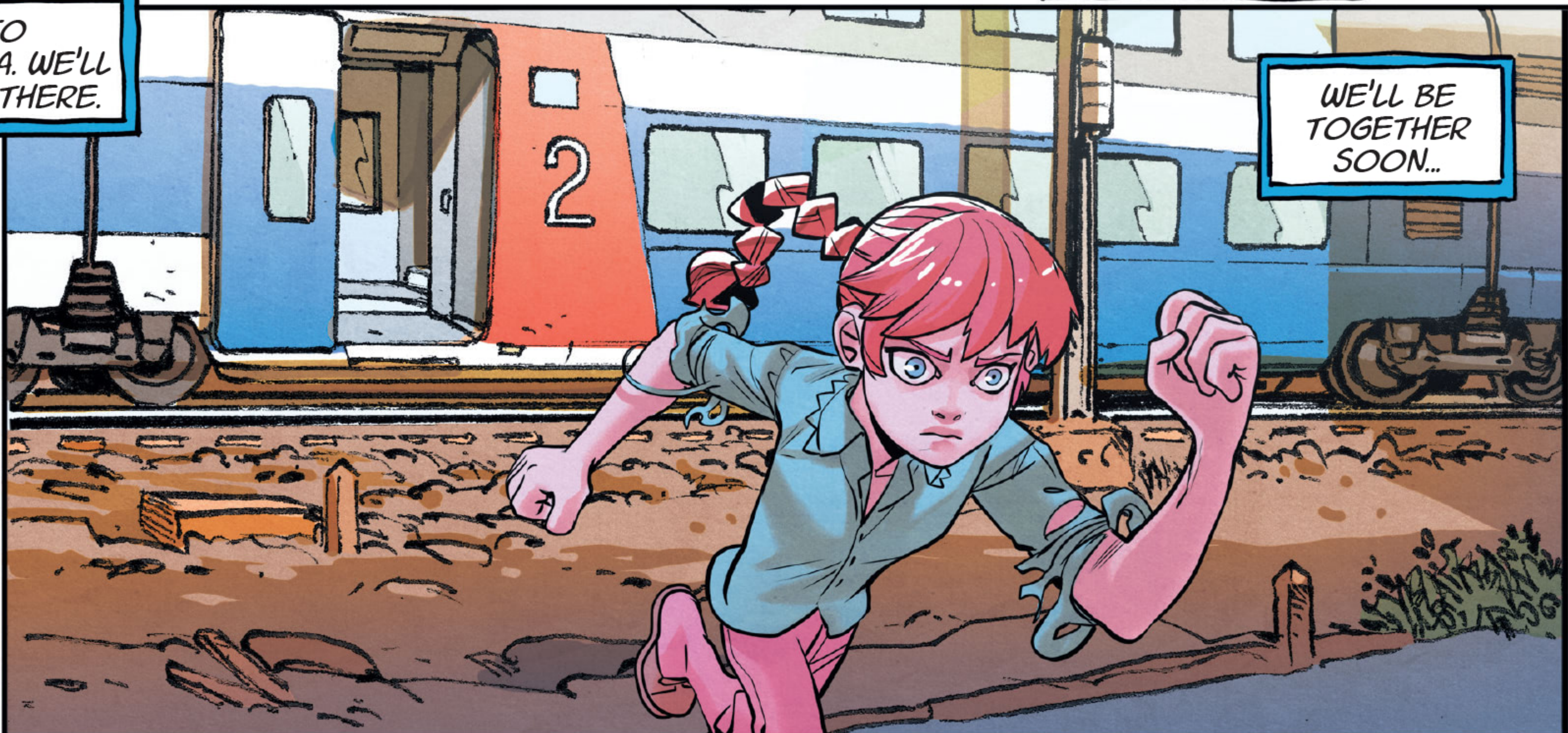


TUCHHHH

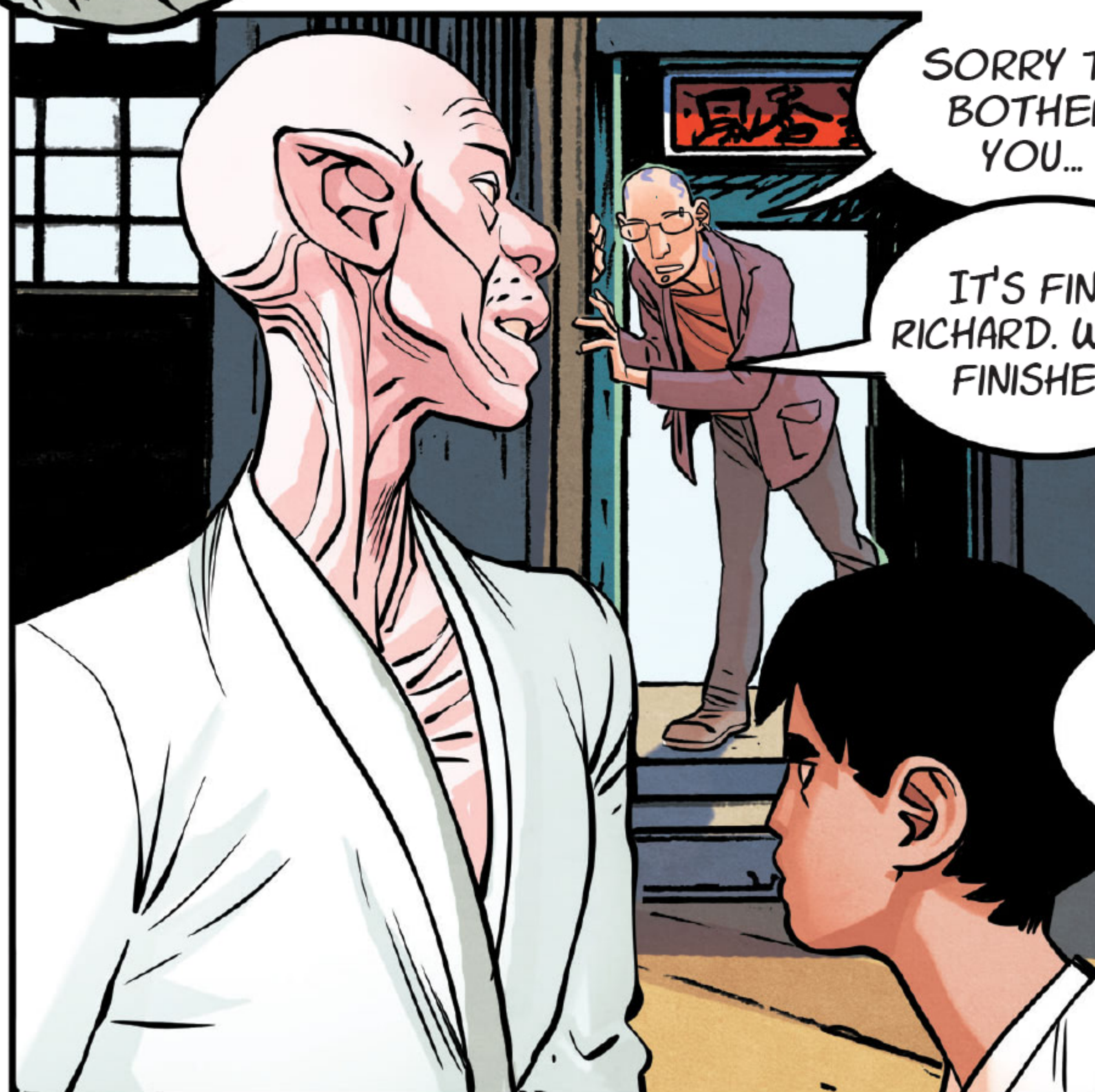
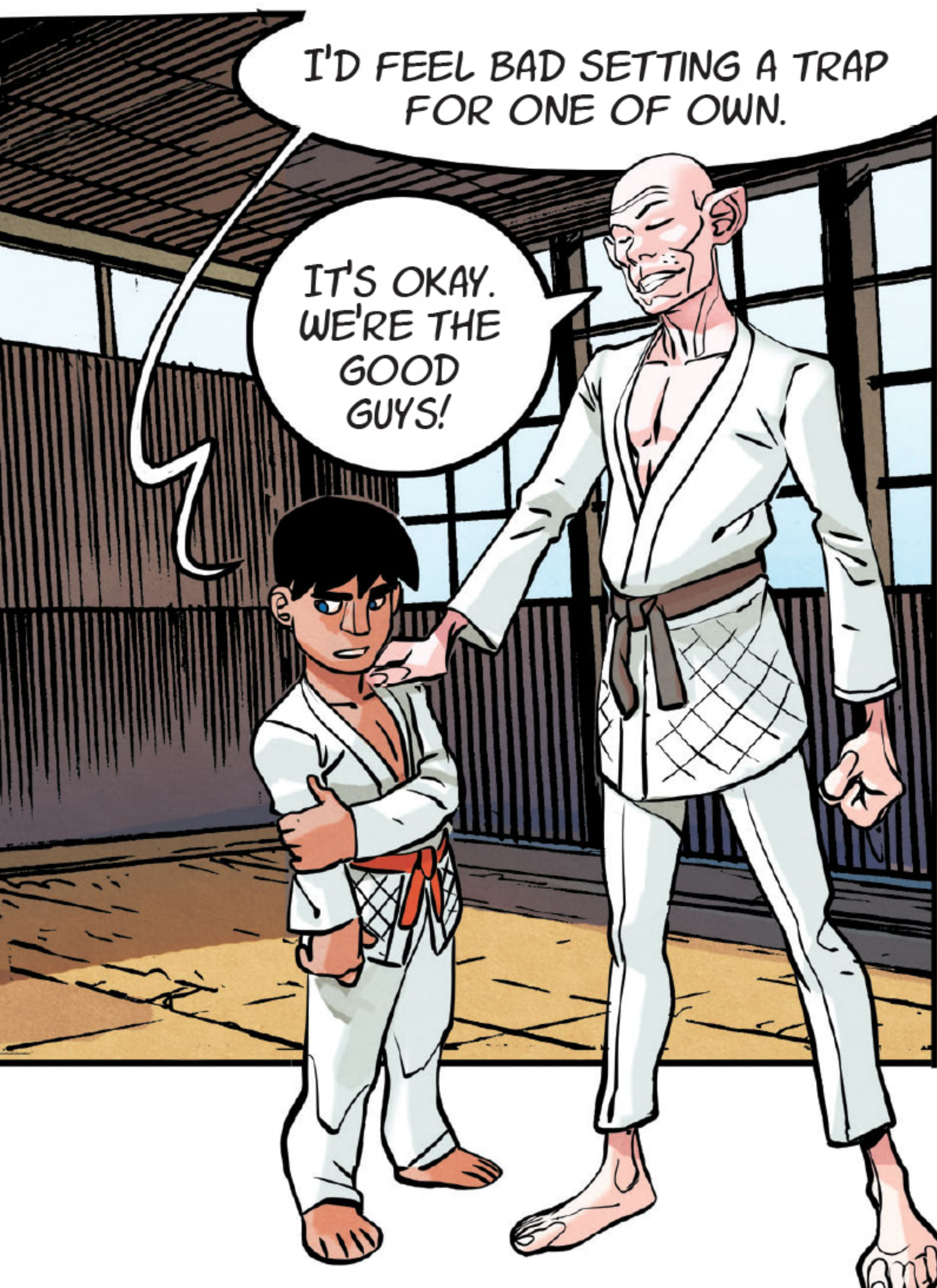
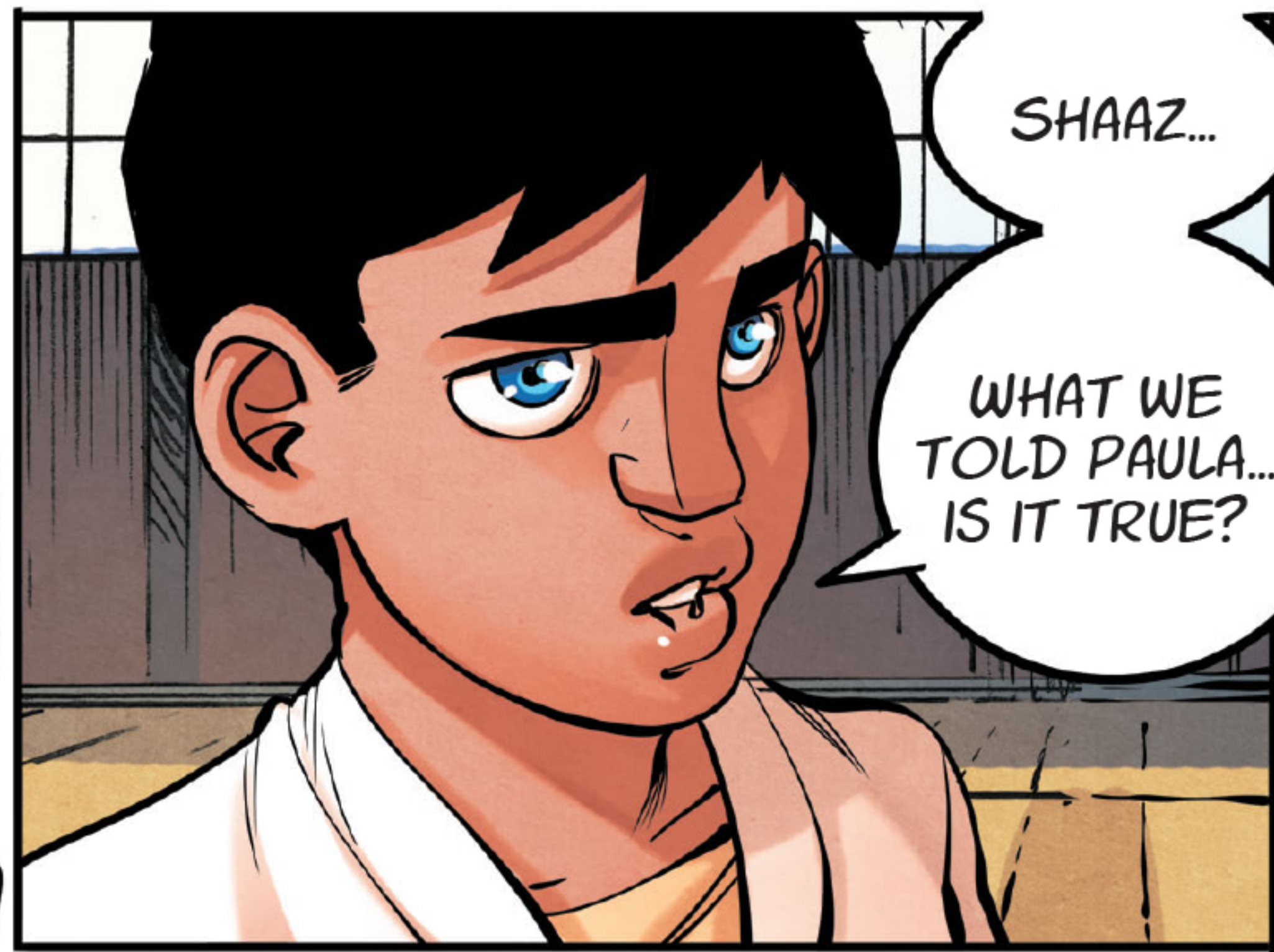
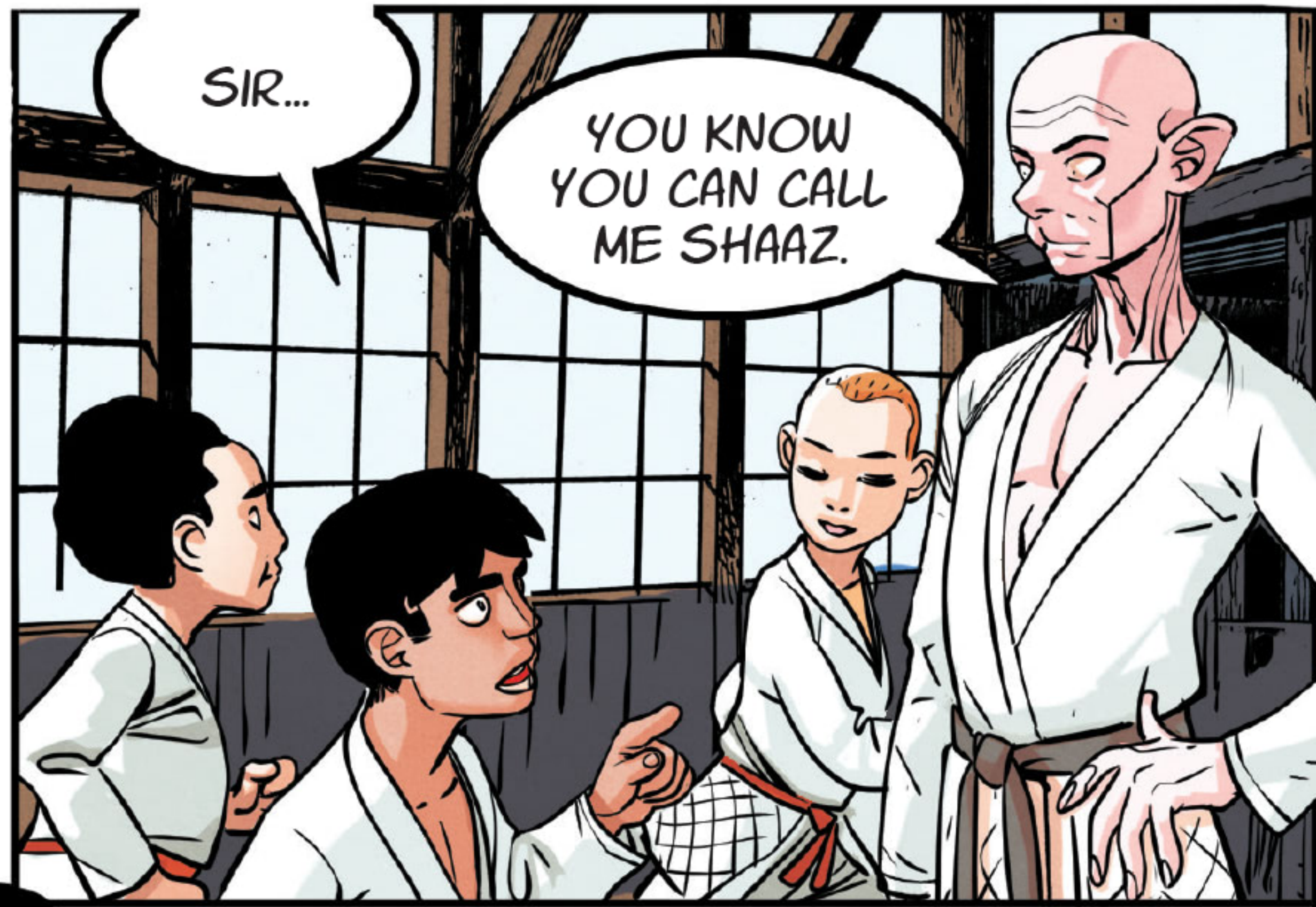
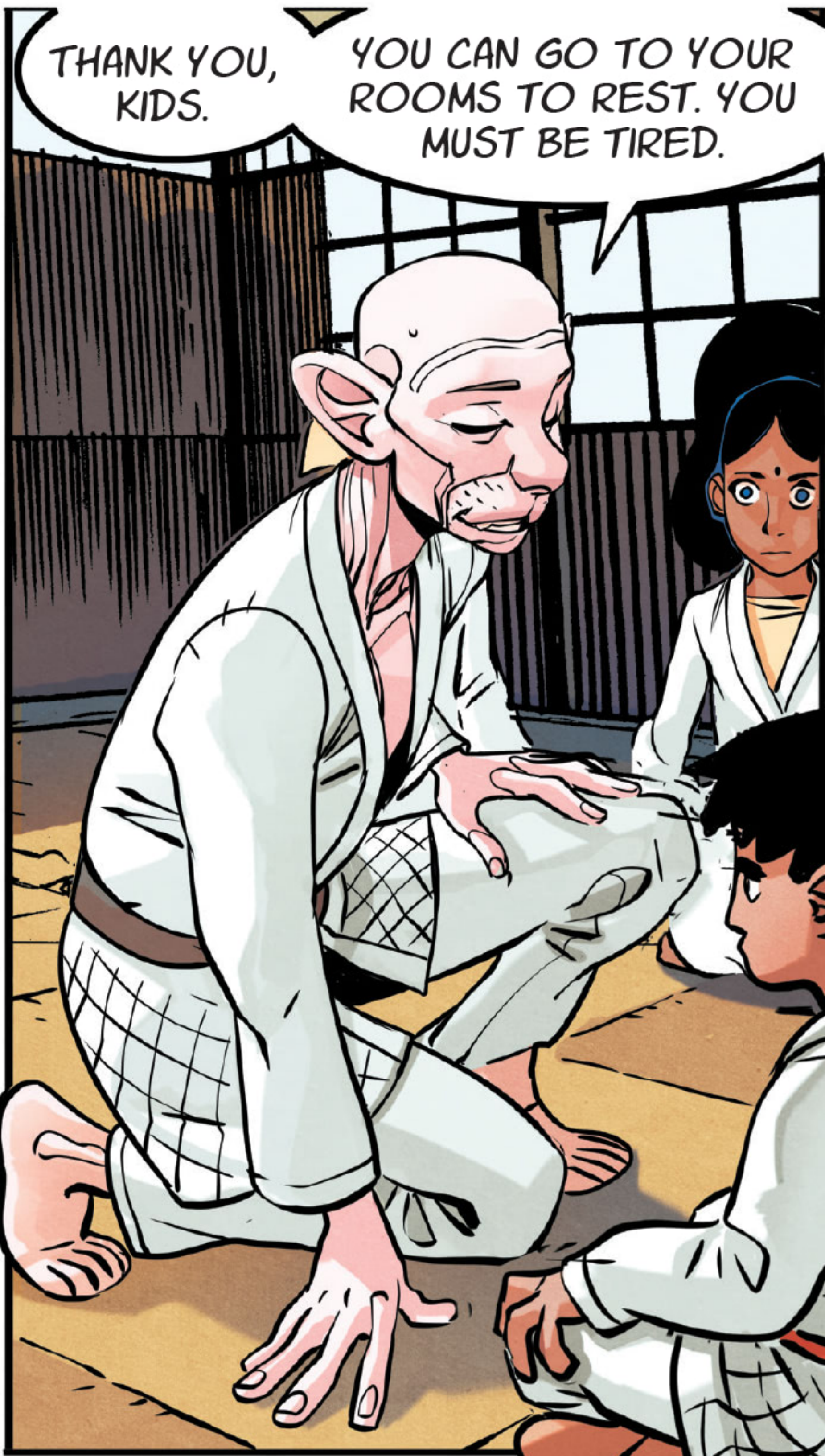
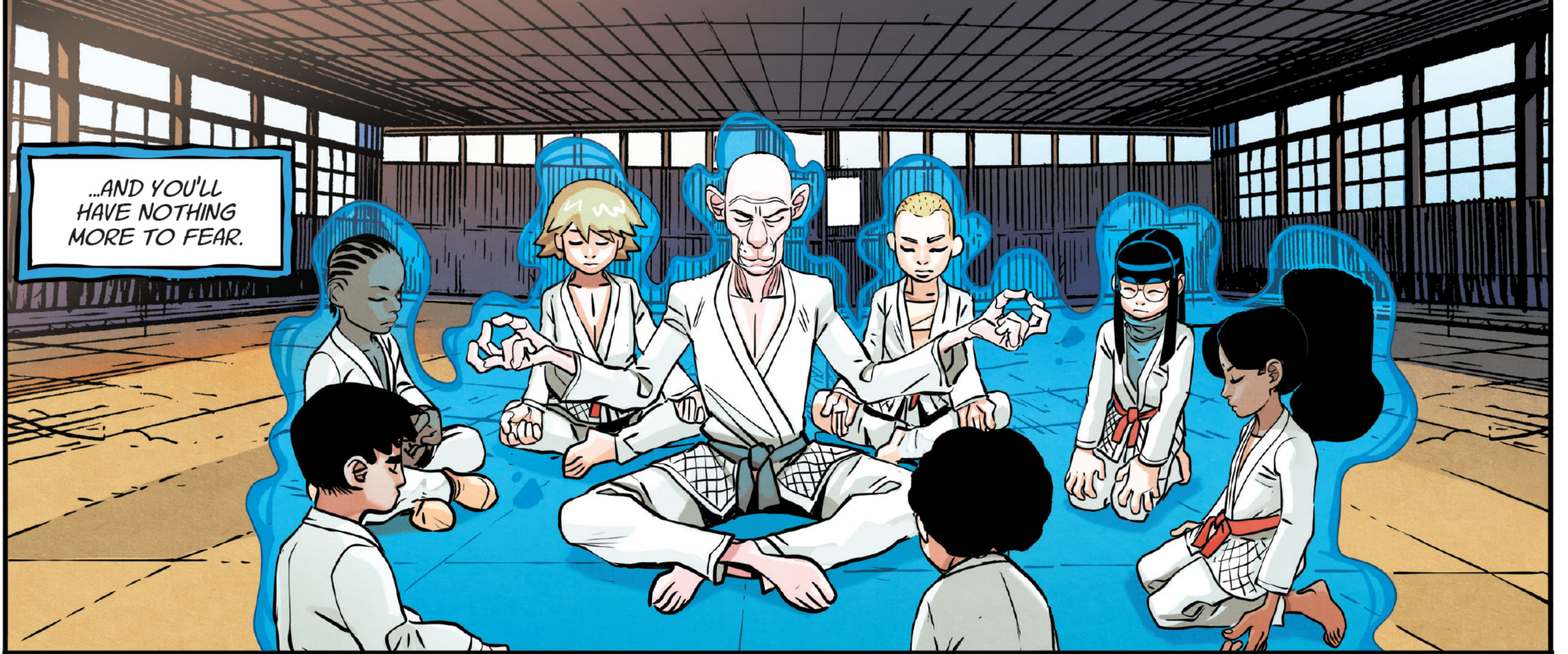
WE'LL PROTECT YOU NOW.

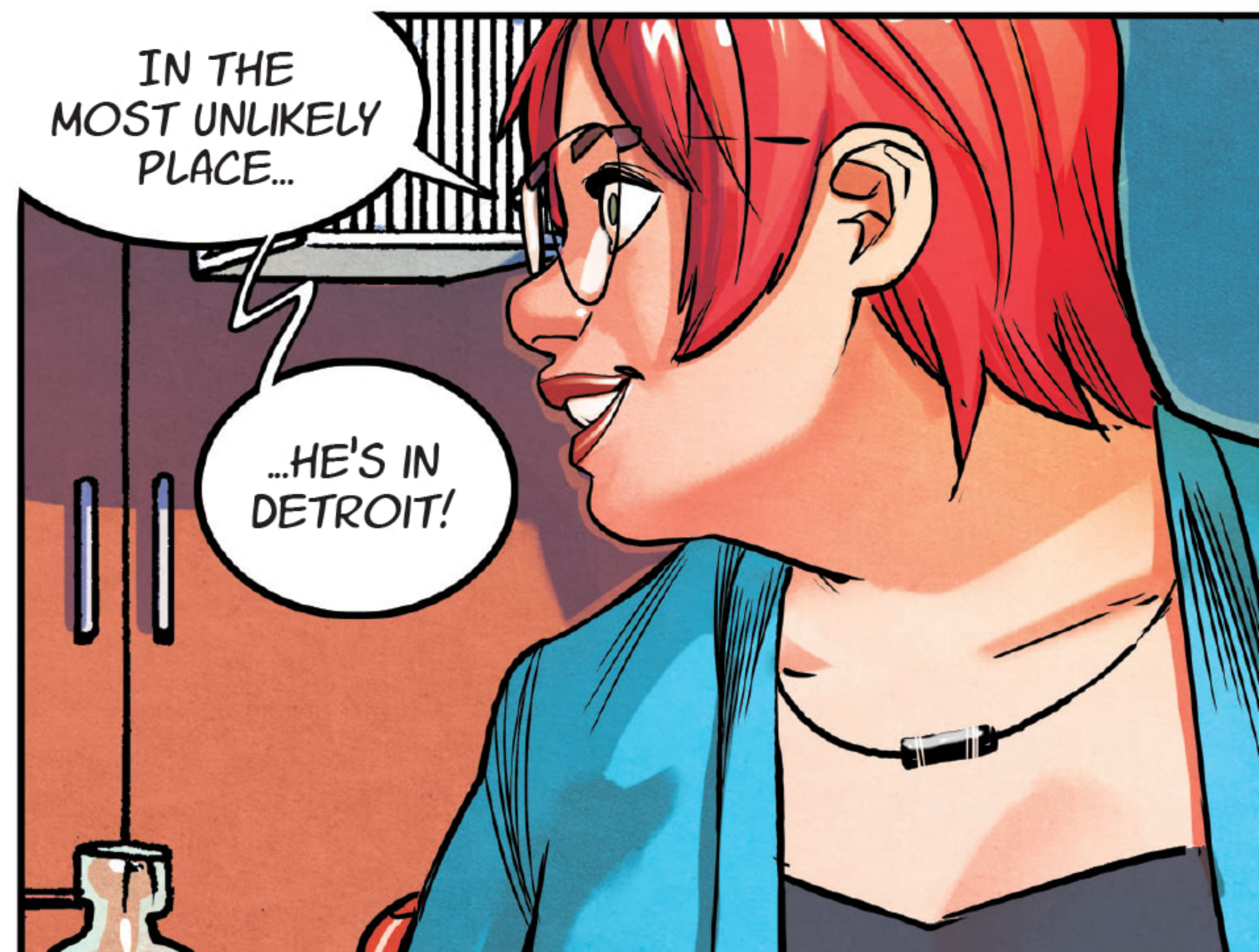
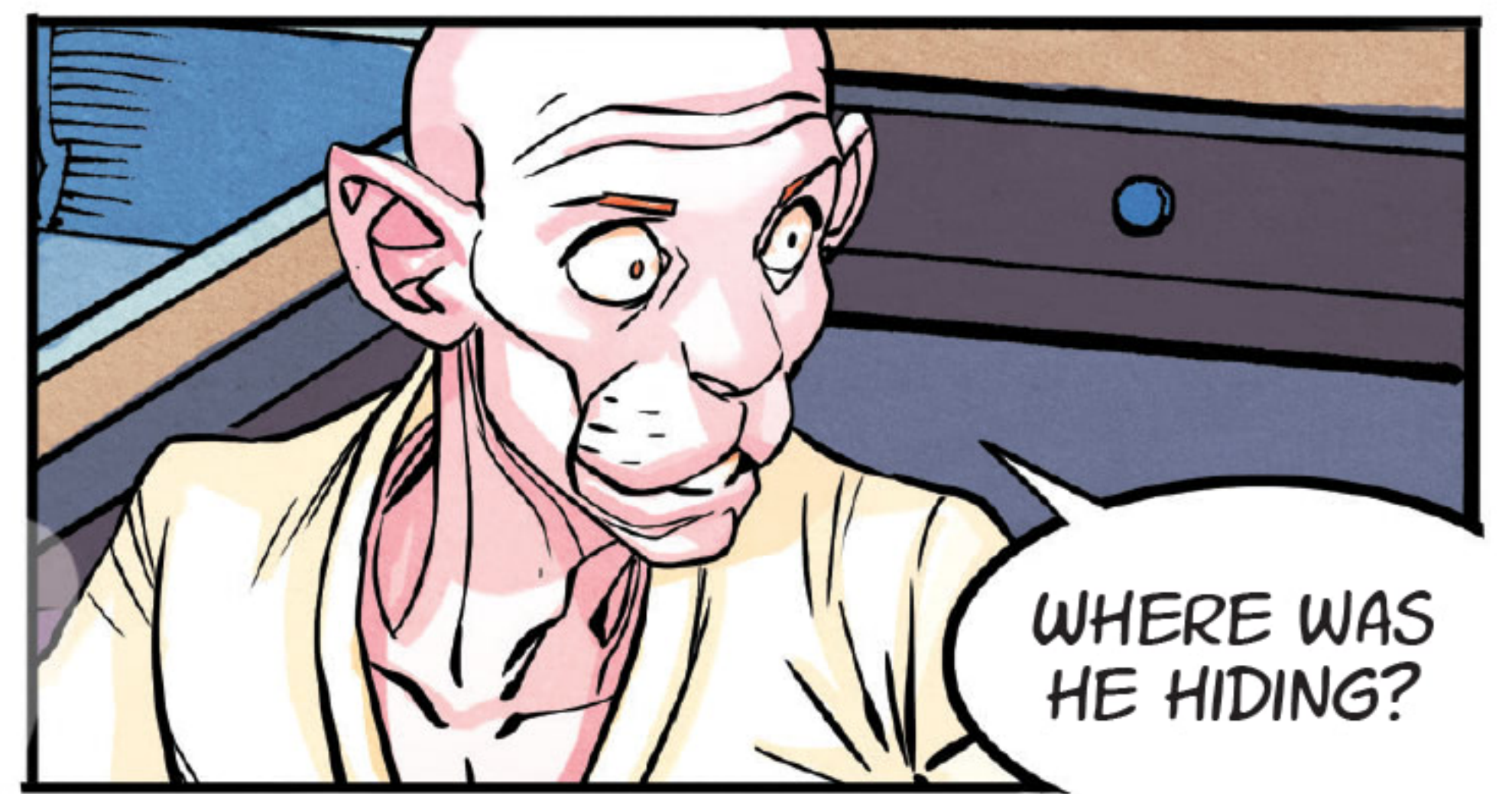
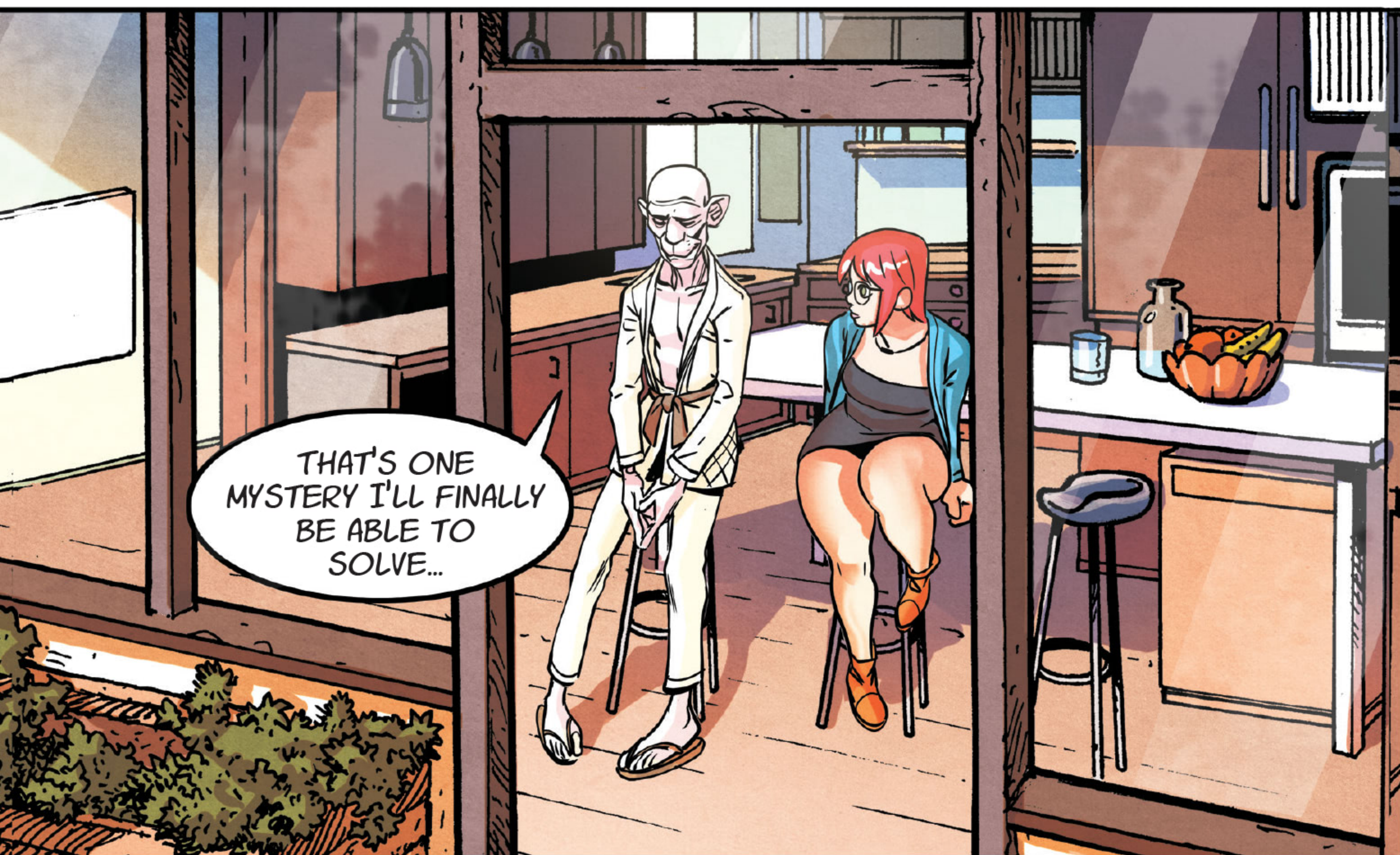
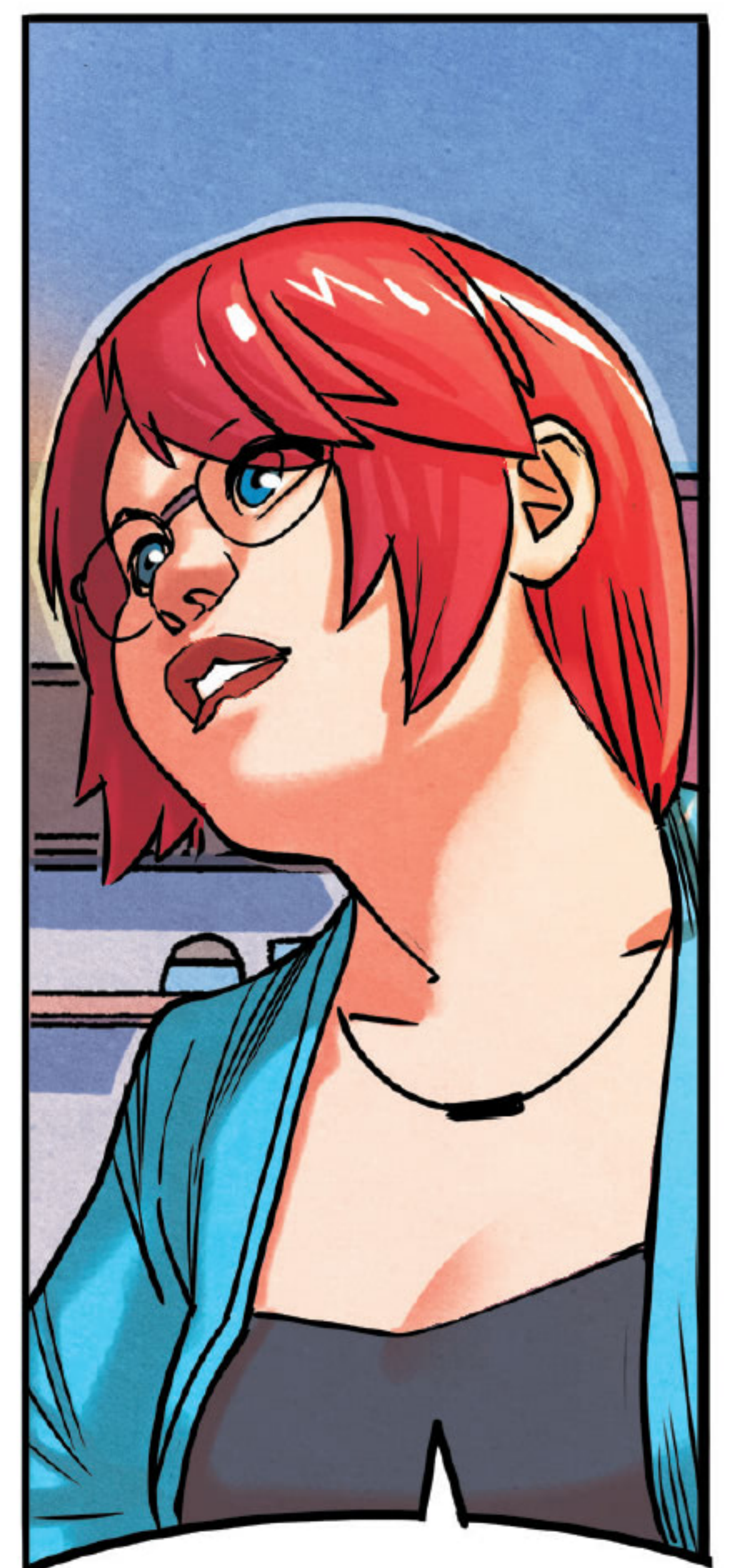
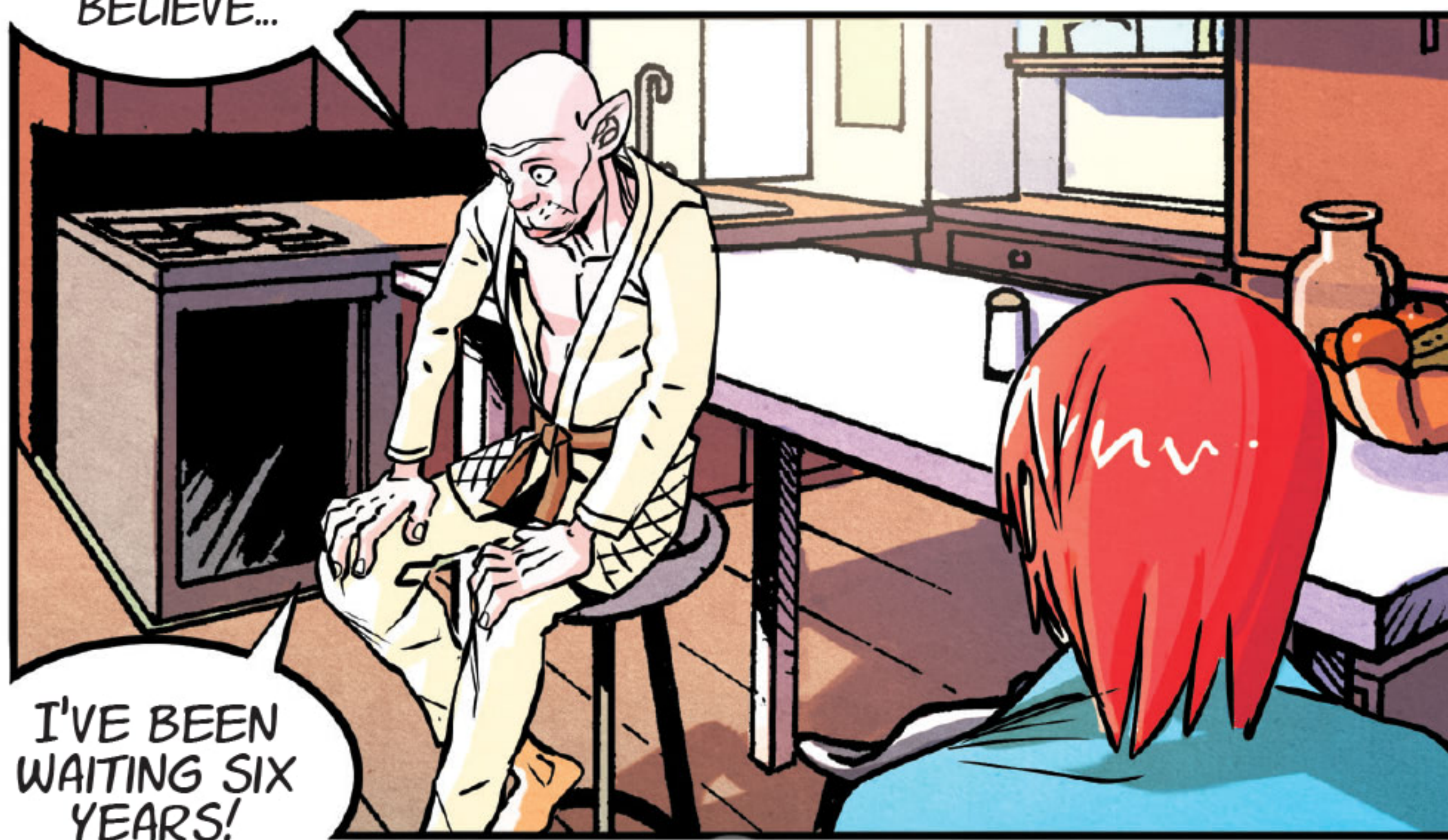
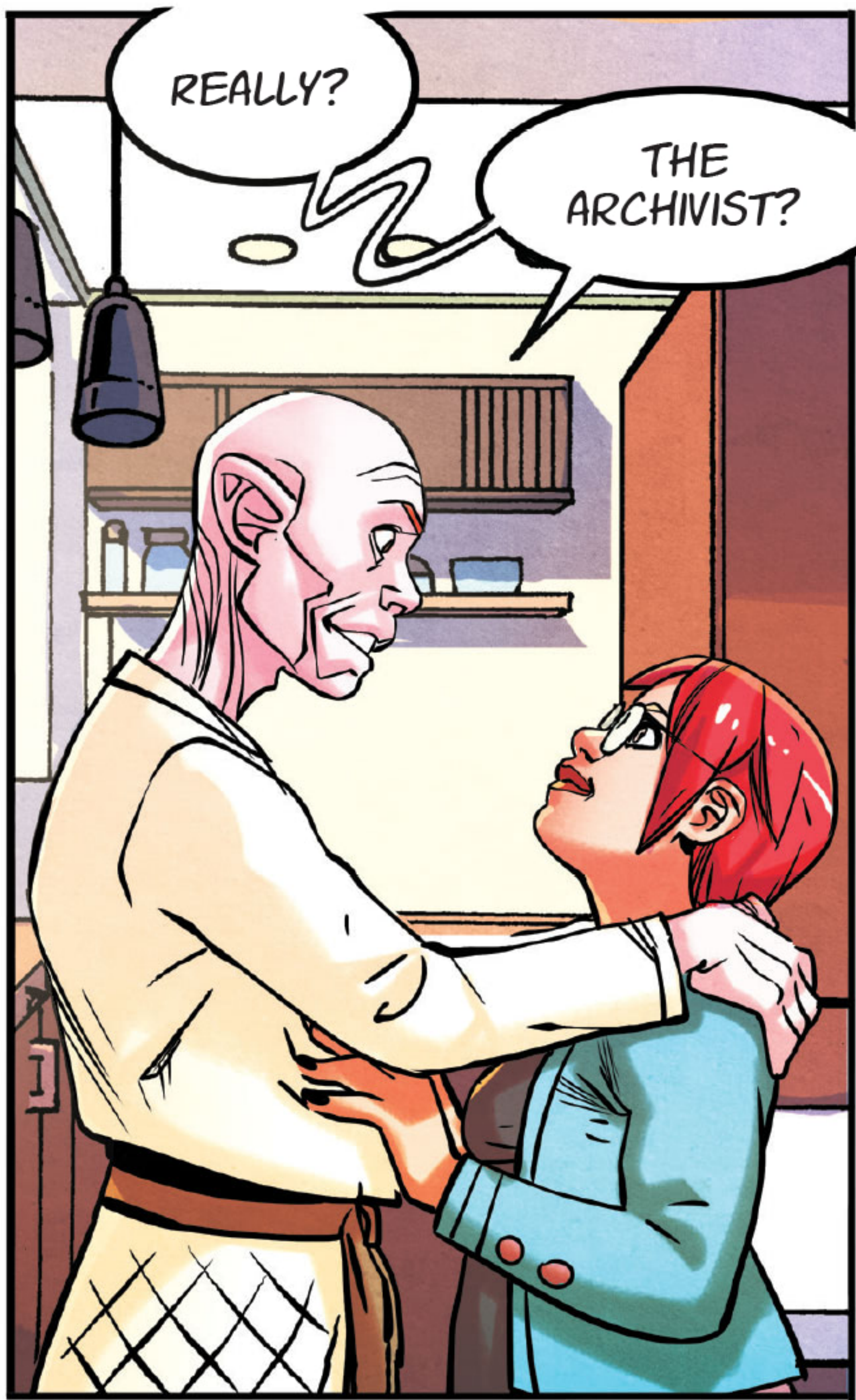
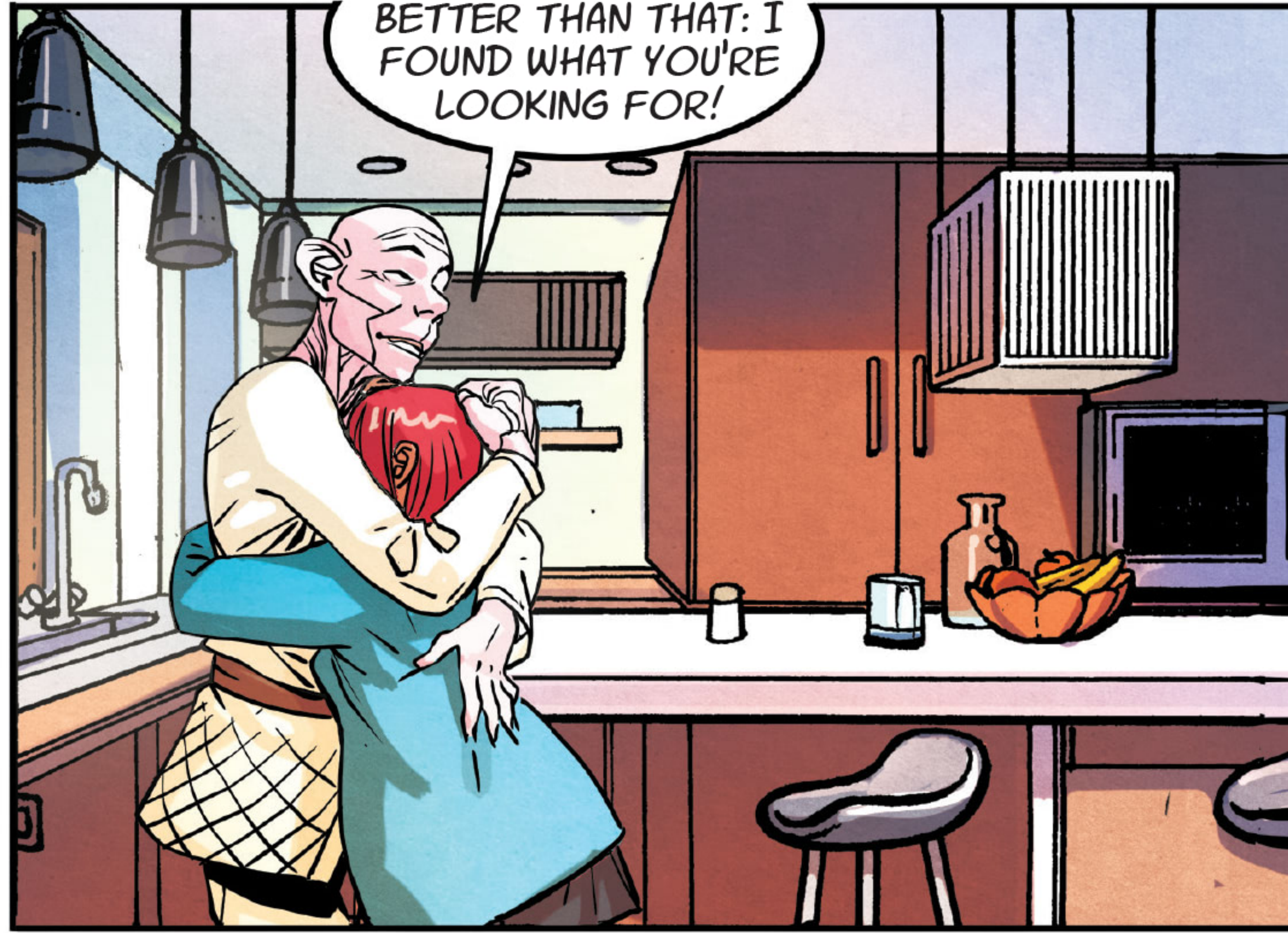
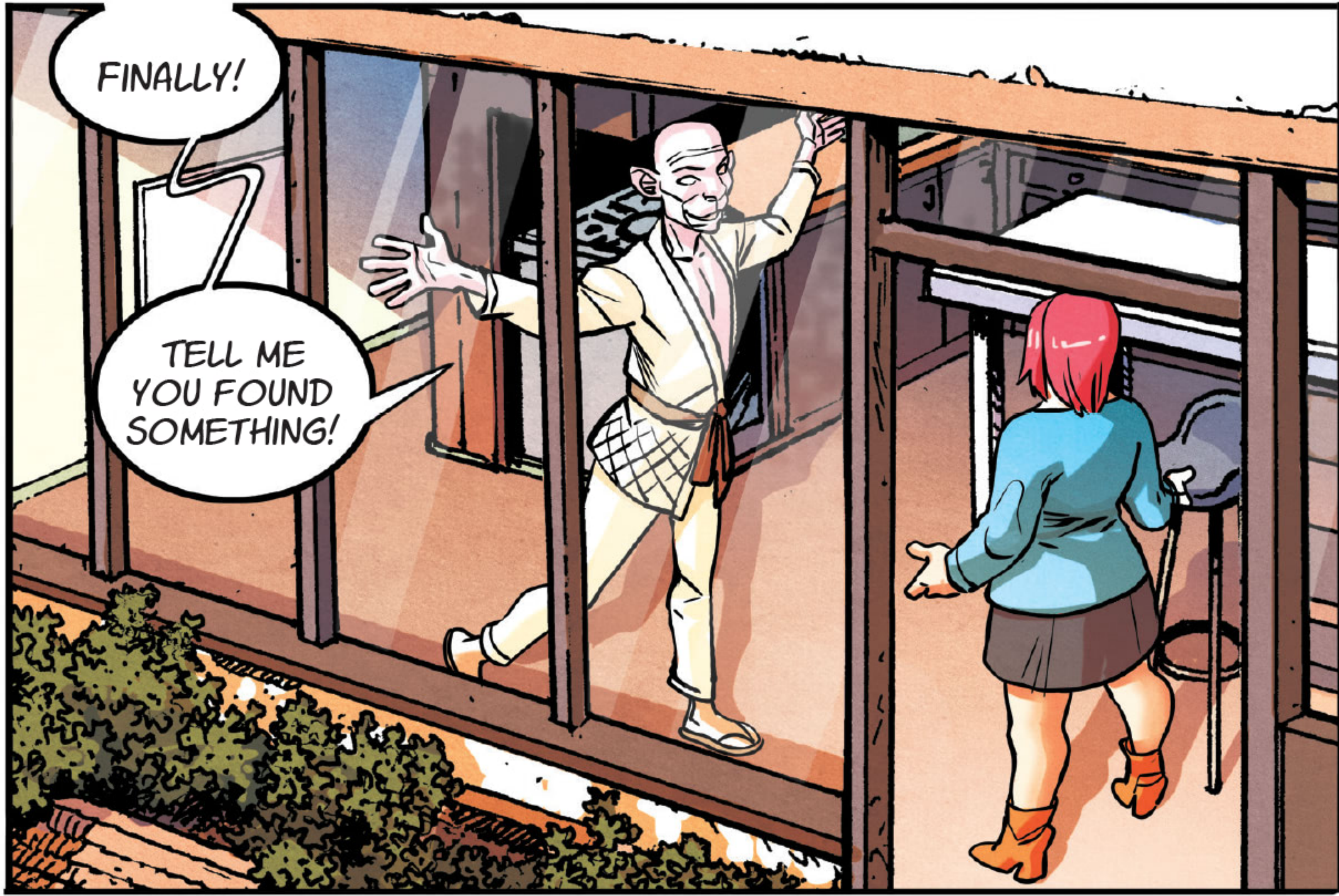


GO TO BARCELONA. WE'LL FIND YOU THERE.

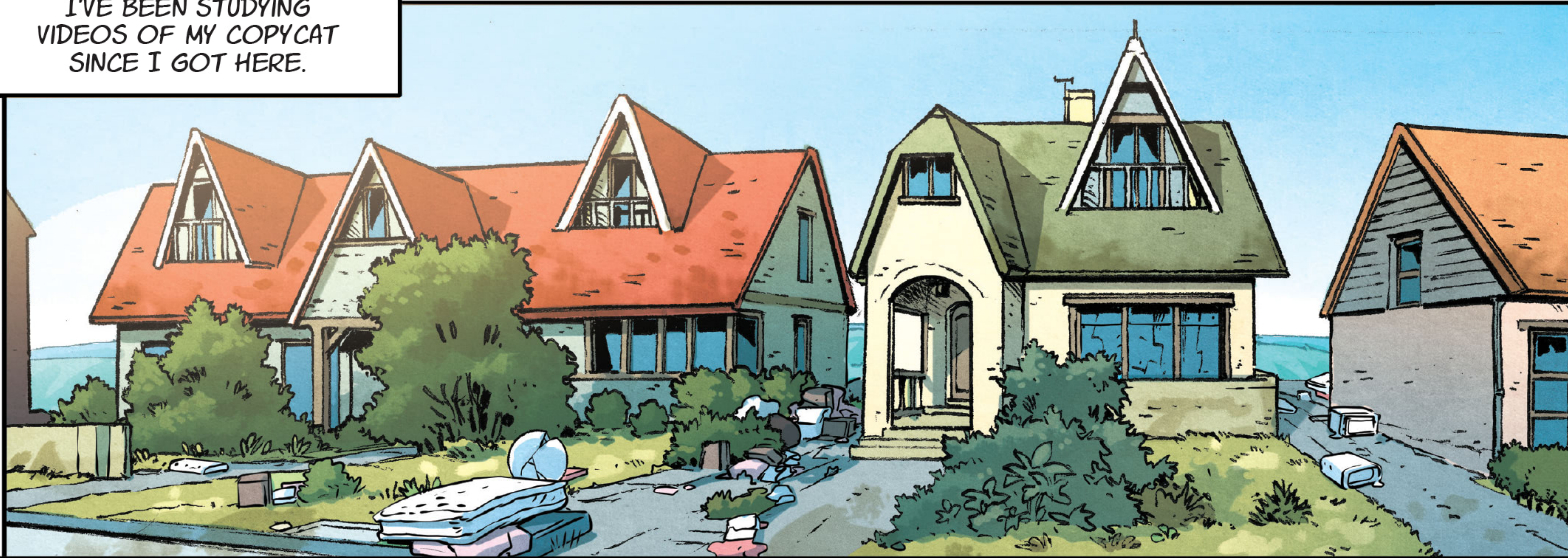


WE'LL BE TOGETHER SOON...



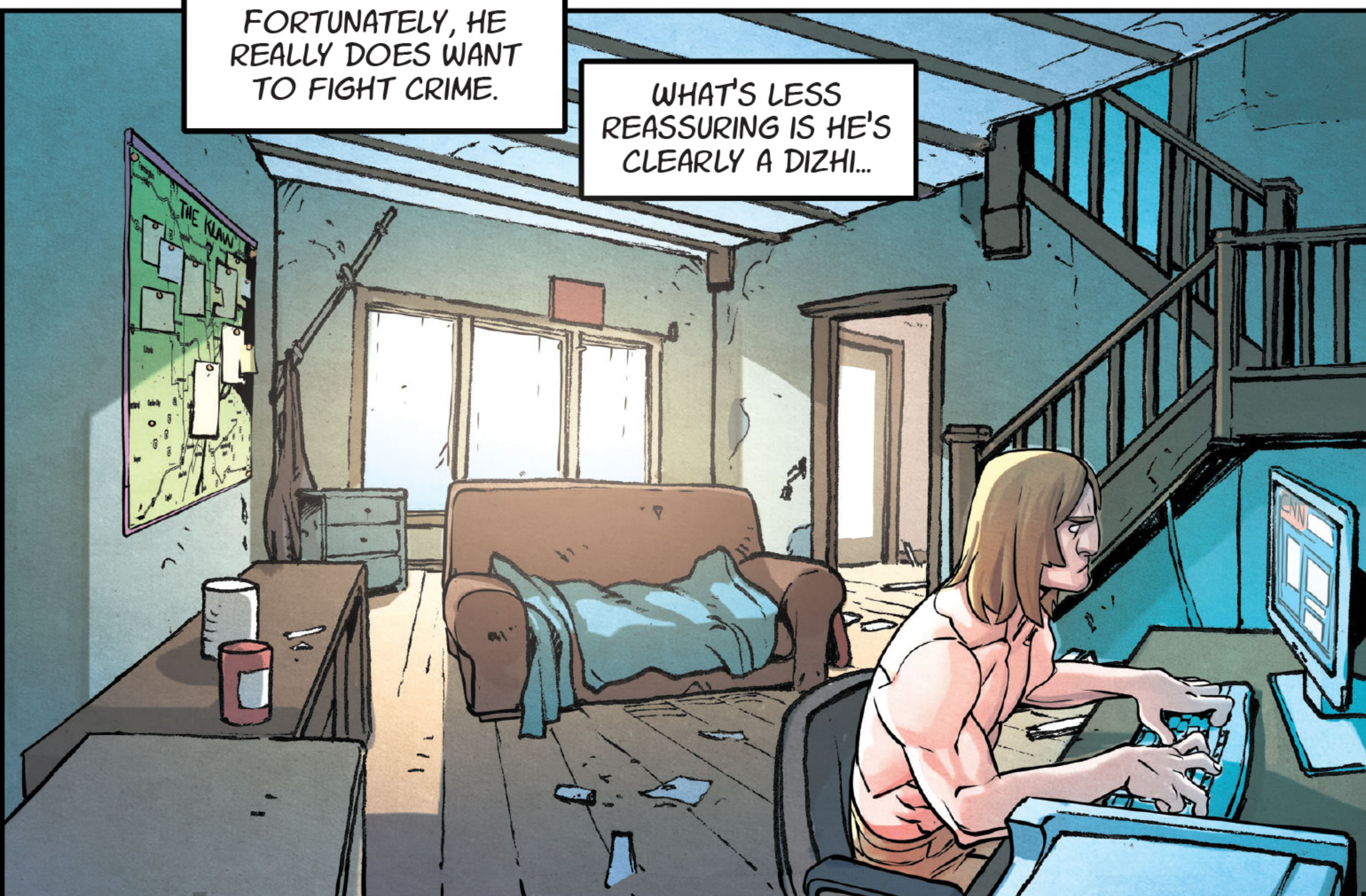


I'VE BEEN STUDYING
VIDEOS OF MY COPYCAT
SINCE I GOT HERE.



FORTUNATELY, HE
REALLY DOES WANT
TO FIGHT CRIME.

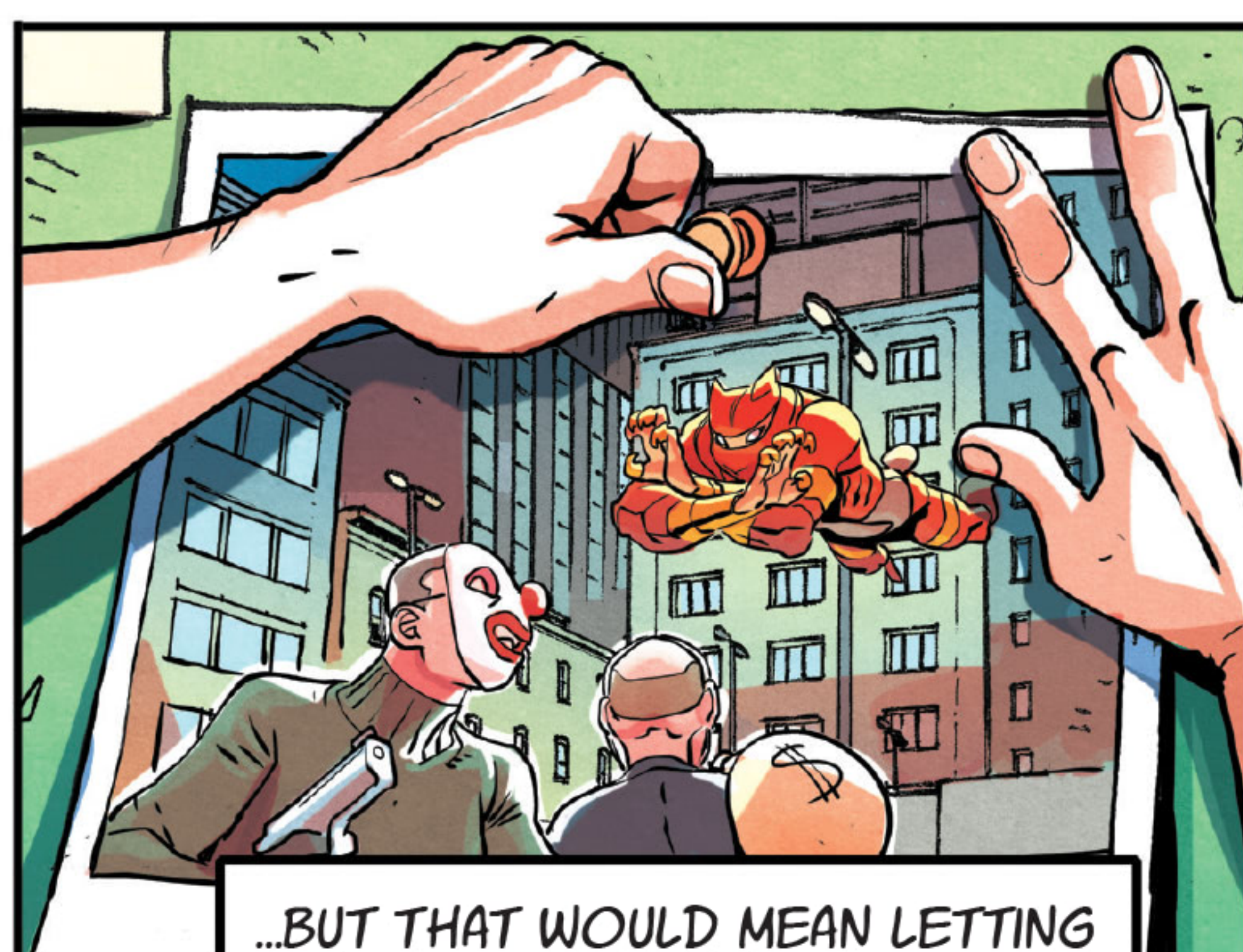
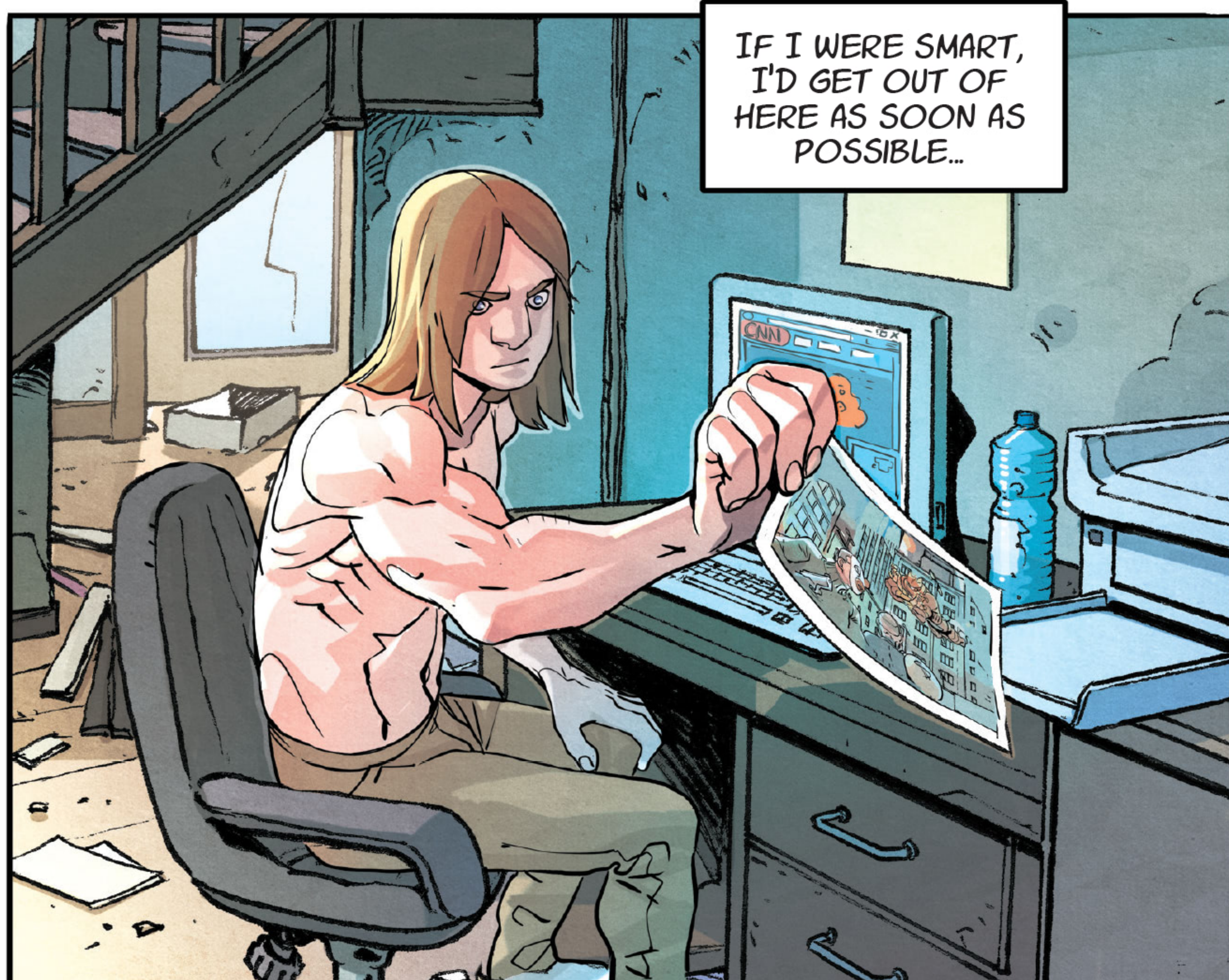
WHAT'S LESS
REASSURING IS HE'S
CLEARLY A DIZHI...



...AND GIVEN ALL THE PUBLICITY HE'S GETTING,
DETROIT COULD SOON BECOME A WAR ZONE.



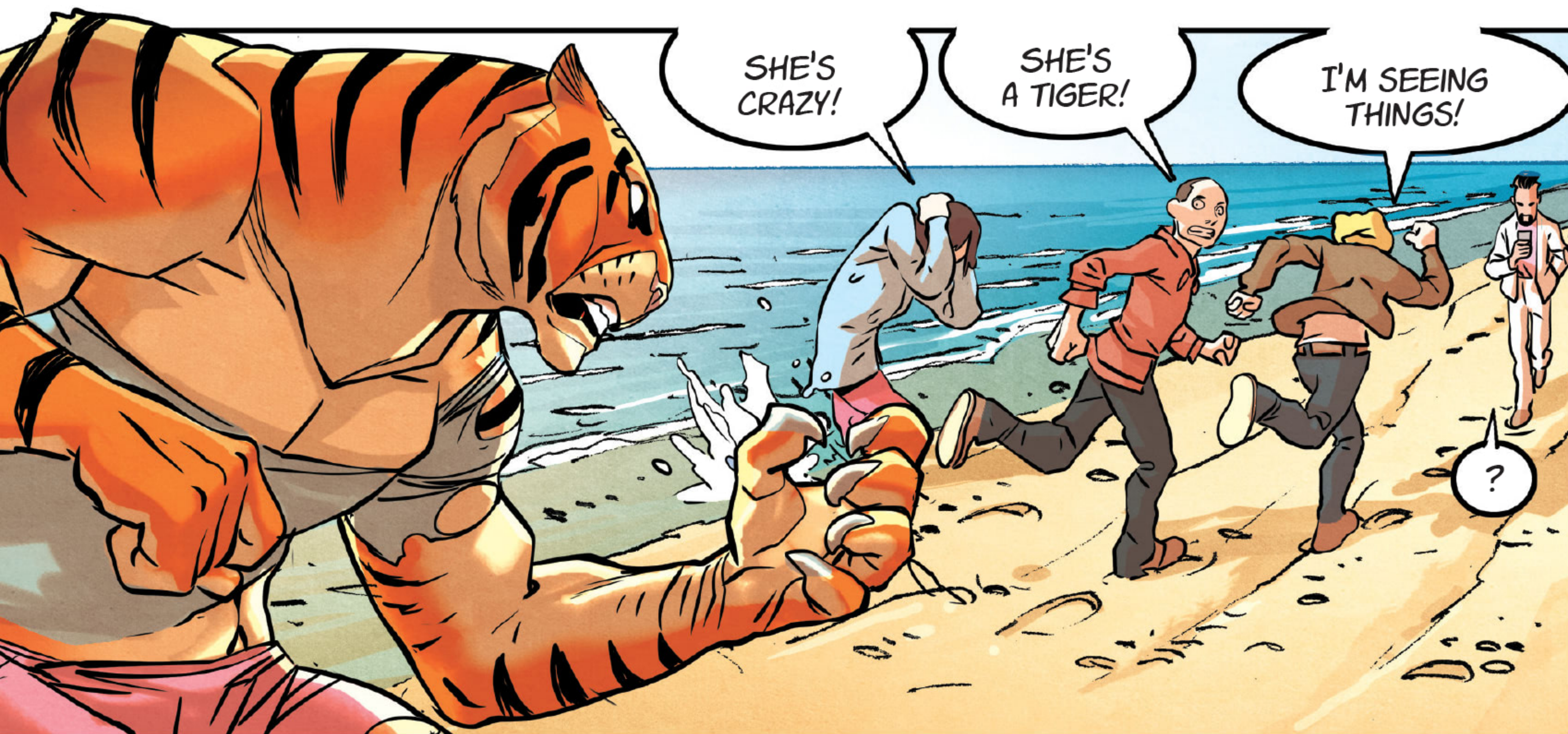
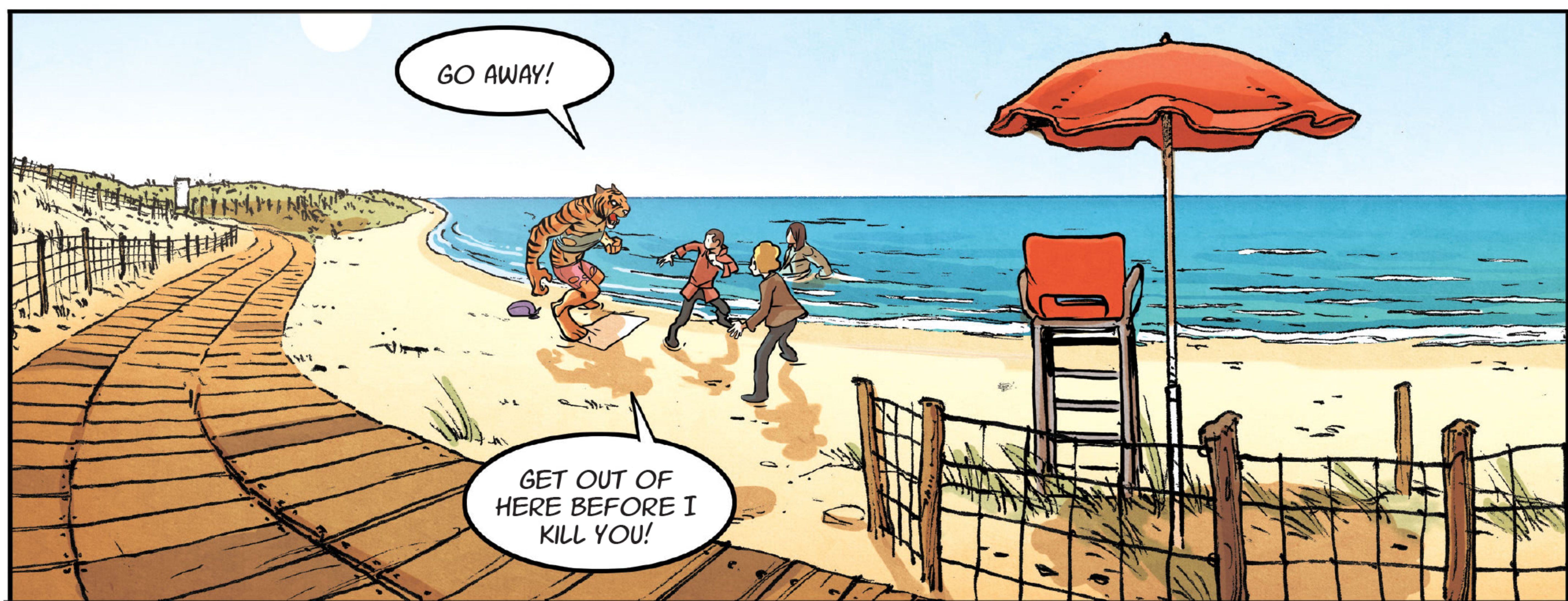
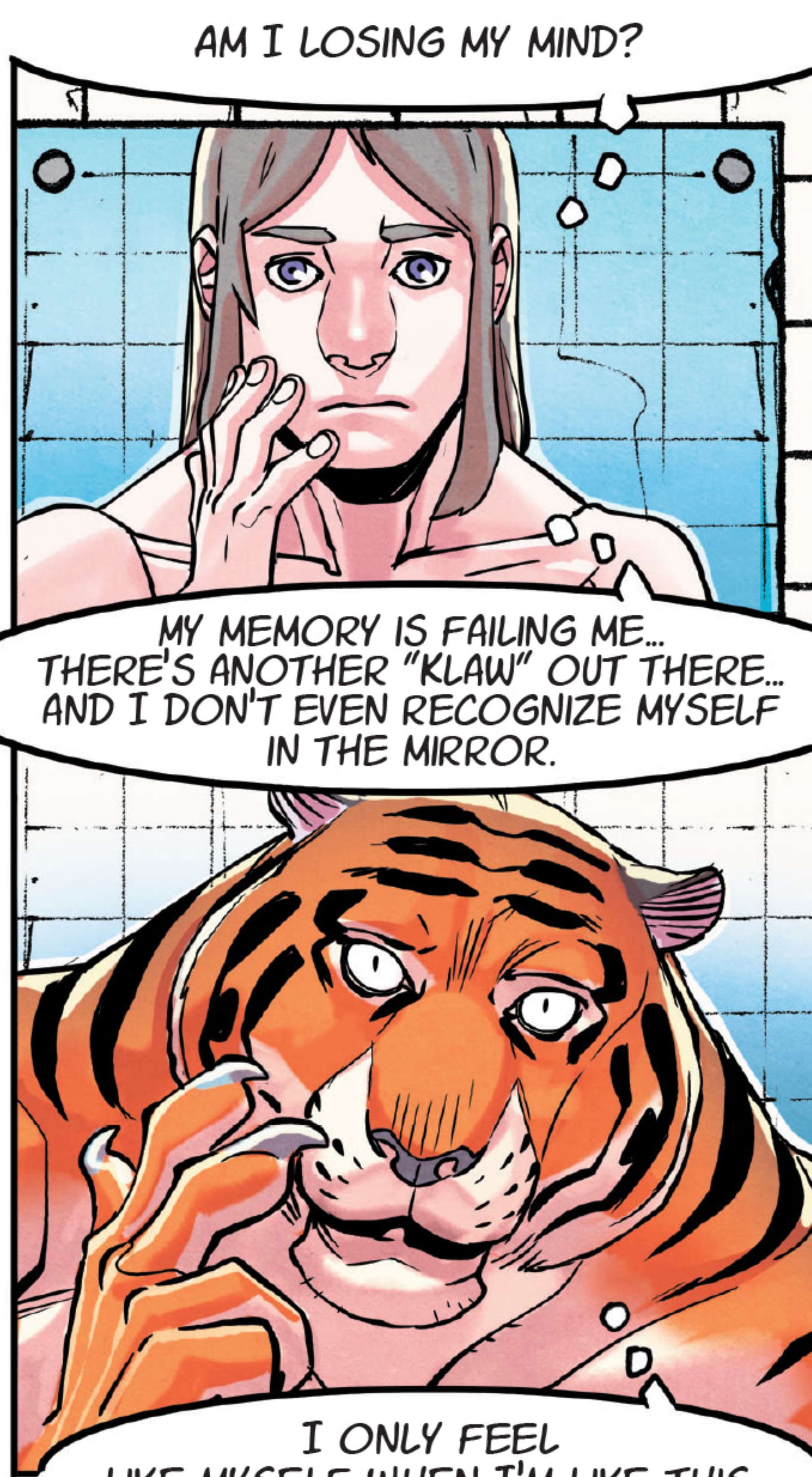
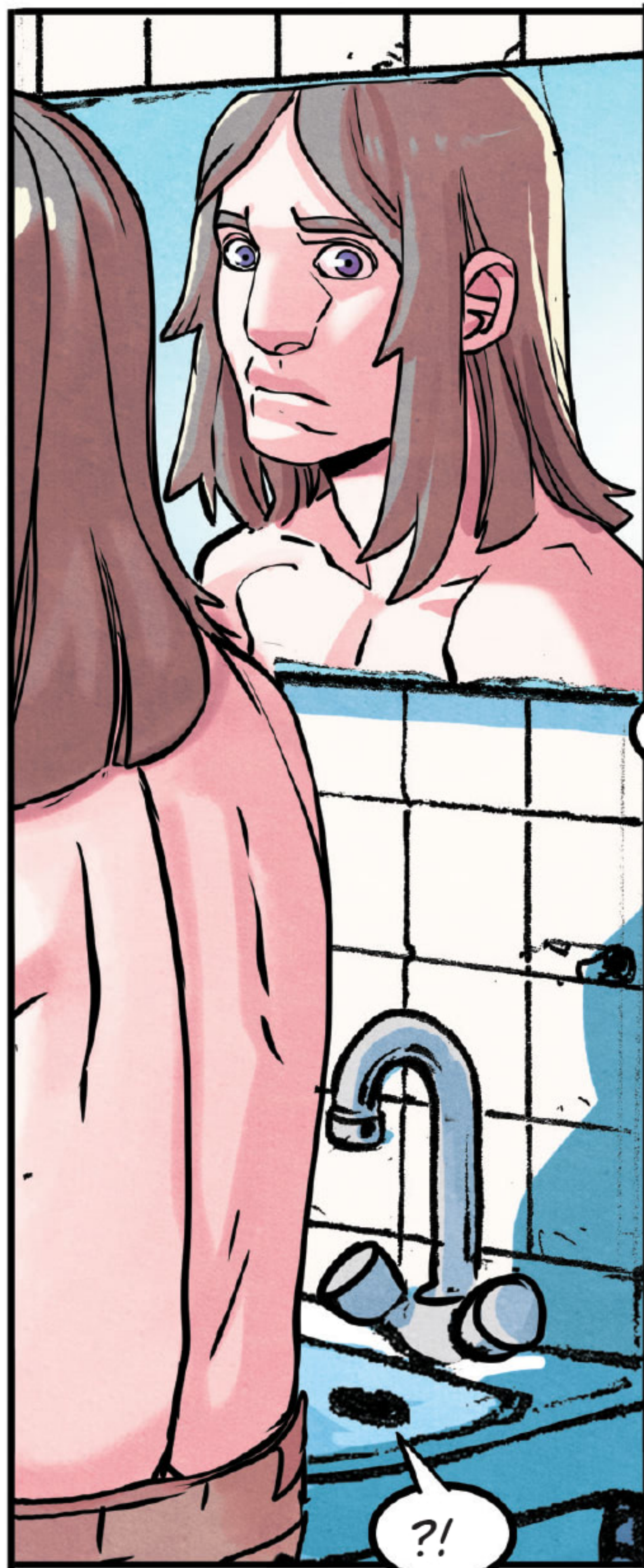
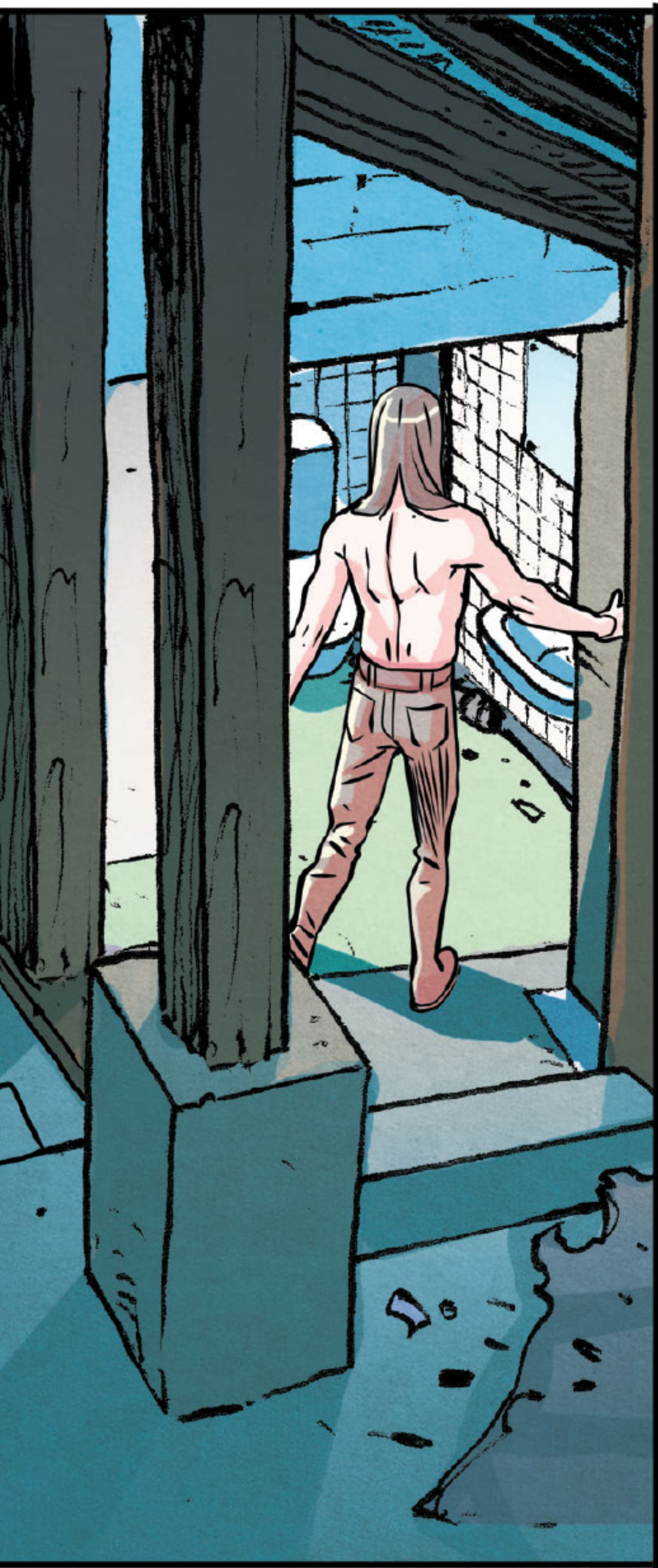
IF I WERE SMART,
I'D GET OUT OF
HERE AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE...



...BUT THAT WOULD MEAN LETTING
HIM USE "THE KLAW" IDENTITY
FOR HIS PERSONAL GAIN.



AND IF HE SLIPS UP, I COULD
BE HELD RESPONSIBLE...
OR AT LEAST, I'D FEEL
LIKE I WAS.





BLESS ME, SPIRIT!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR SO LONG!

WILL YOU... HELP ME?

YES! ANYTHING! HOW?

TAKE ME TO BARCELONA.

NO PROBLEM!

YOU'RE BACK.

OW!

WAIT... WHOA!

THIS IS NEW...! I FEEL LIKE...

...I HAVE SOME OF PAULA'S MEMORIES!

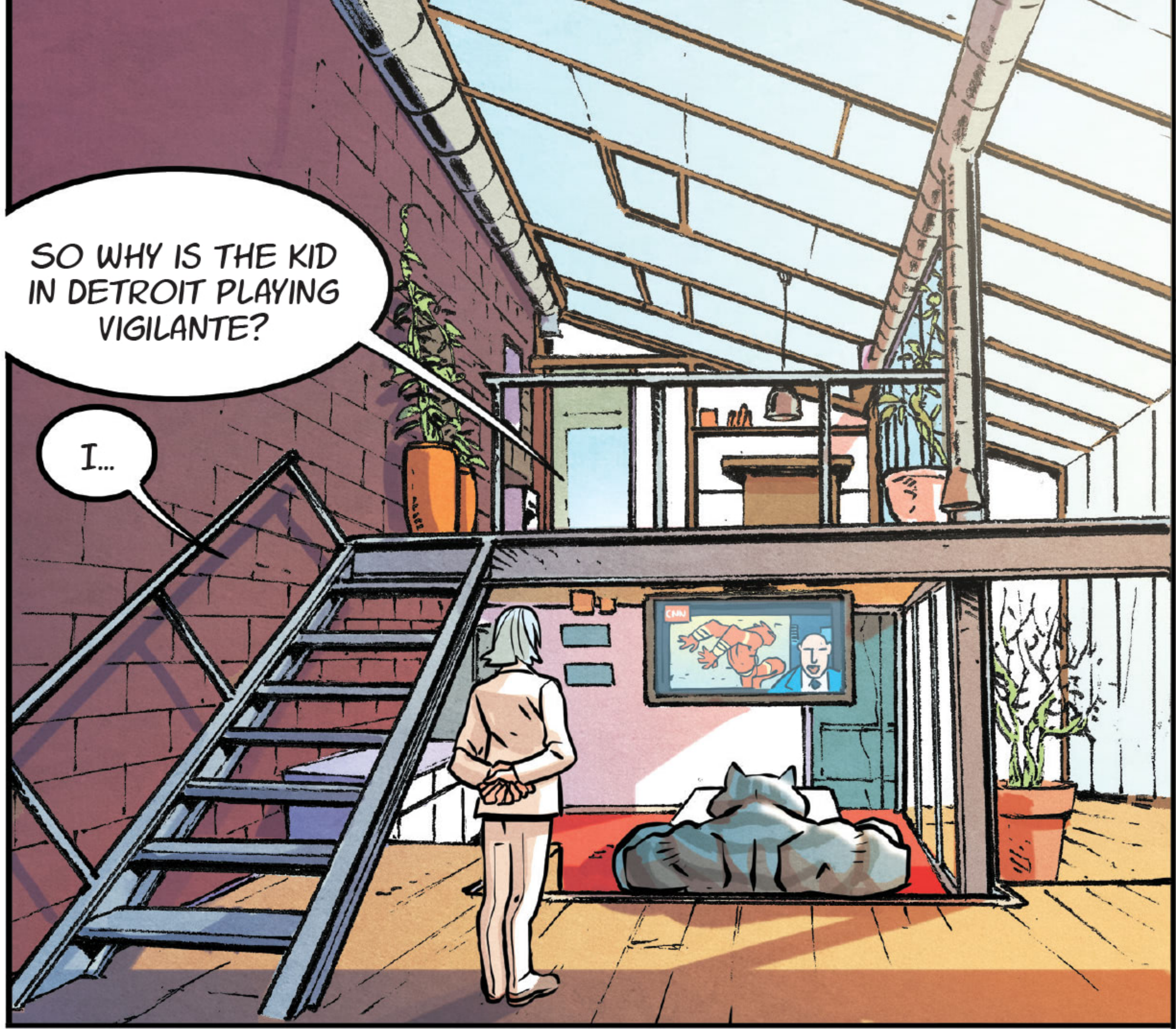
AND PAULA RECOGNIZED LISA IN PARIS...

WE'RE CONNECTED!

MAYBE WE CAN COMMUNICATE!

SO WHY IS THE KID
IN DETROIT PLAYING
VIGILANTE?

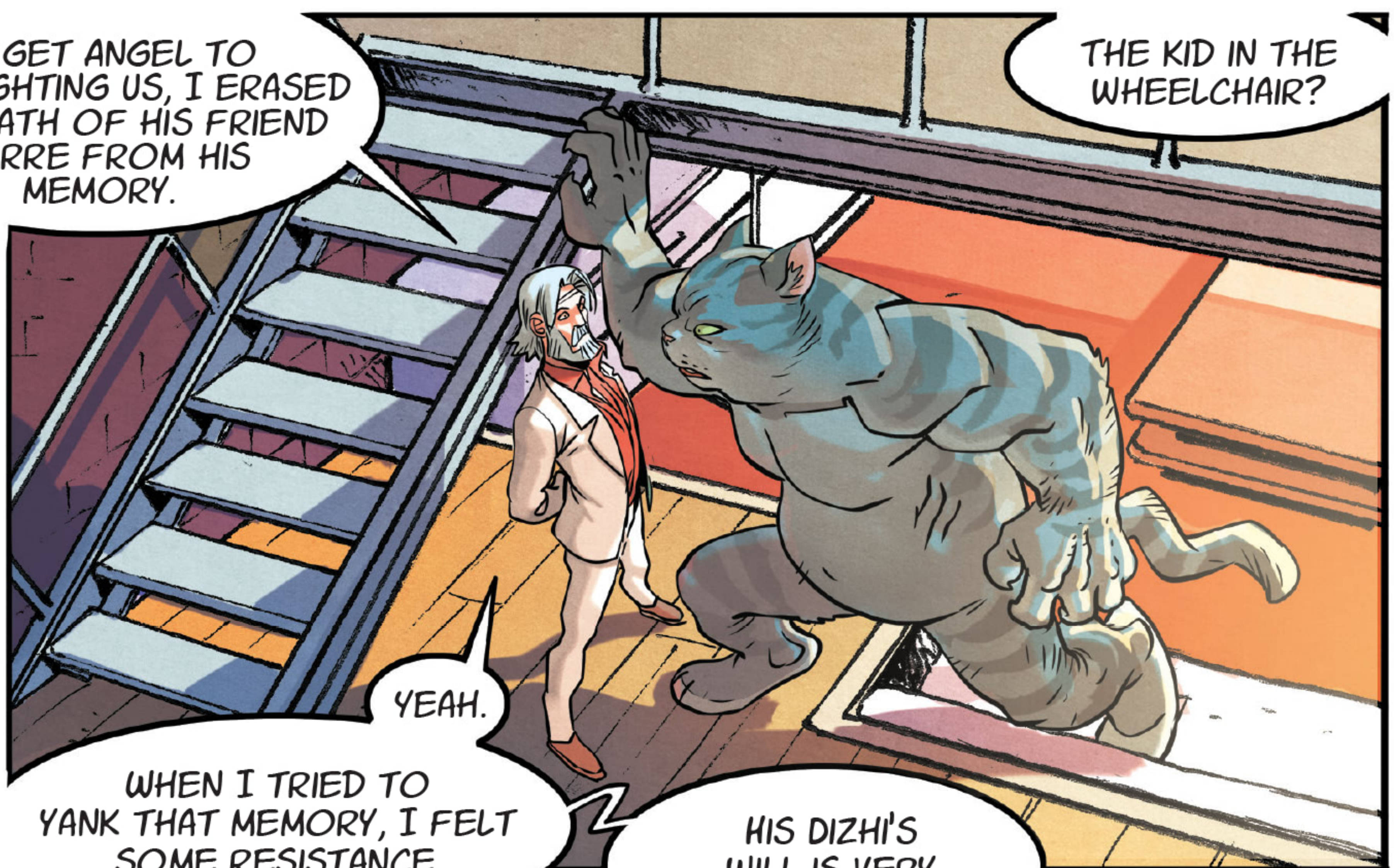
I...



...THAT MIGHT
BE MY FAULT.

WHAT?

TO GET ANGEL TO
STOP FIGHTING US, I ERASED
THE DEATH OF HIS FRIEND
PIERRE FROM HIS
MEMORY.



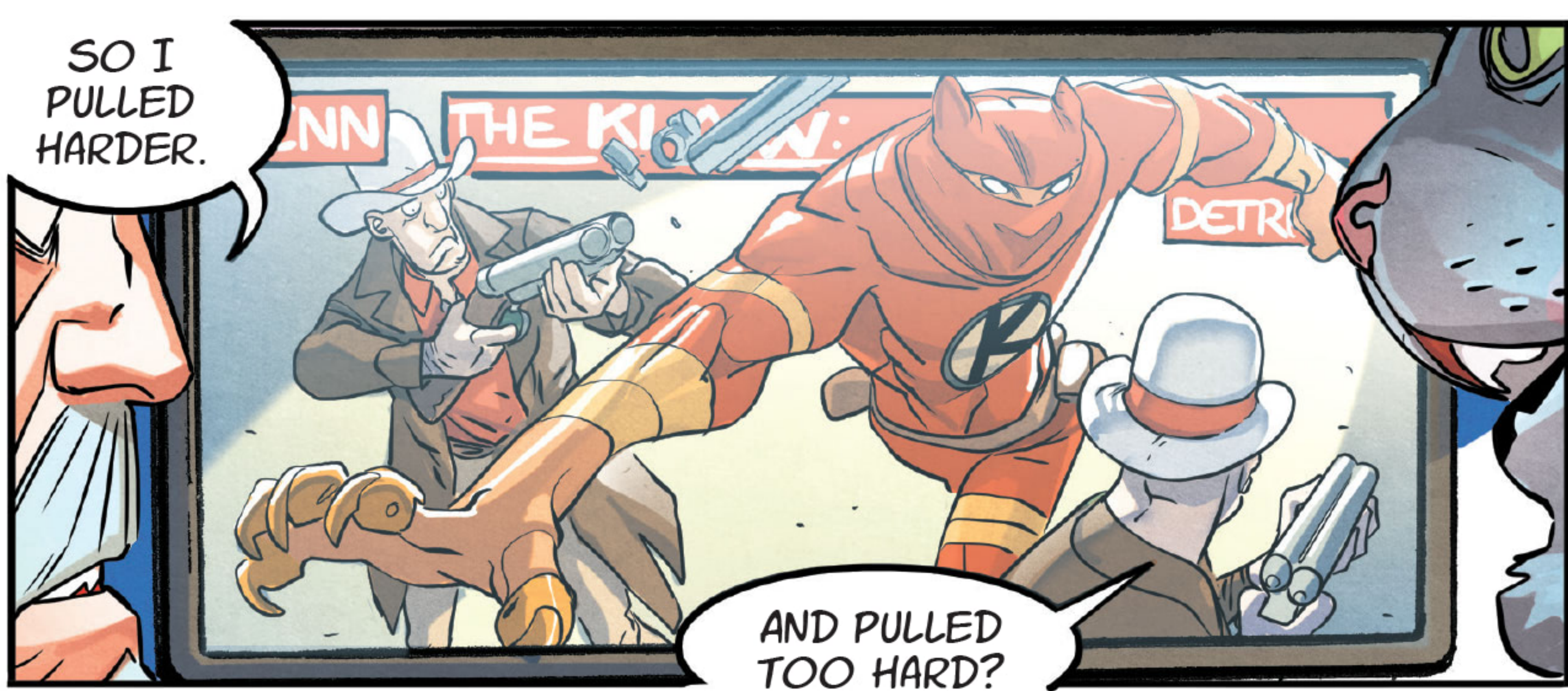
THE KID IN THE
WHEELCHAIR?

YEAH.

WHEN I TRIED TO
YANK THAT MEMORY, I FELT
SOME RESISTANCE.

HIS DIZHI'S
WILL IS VERY
STRONG.

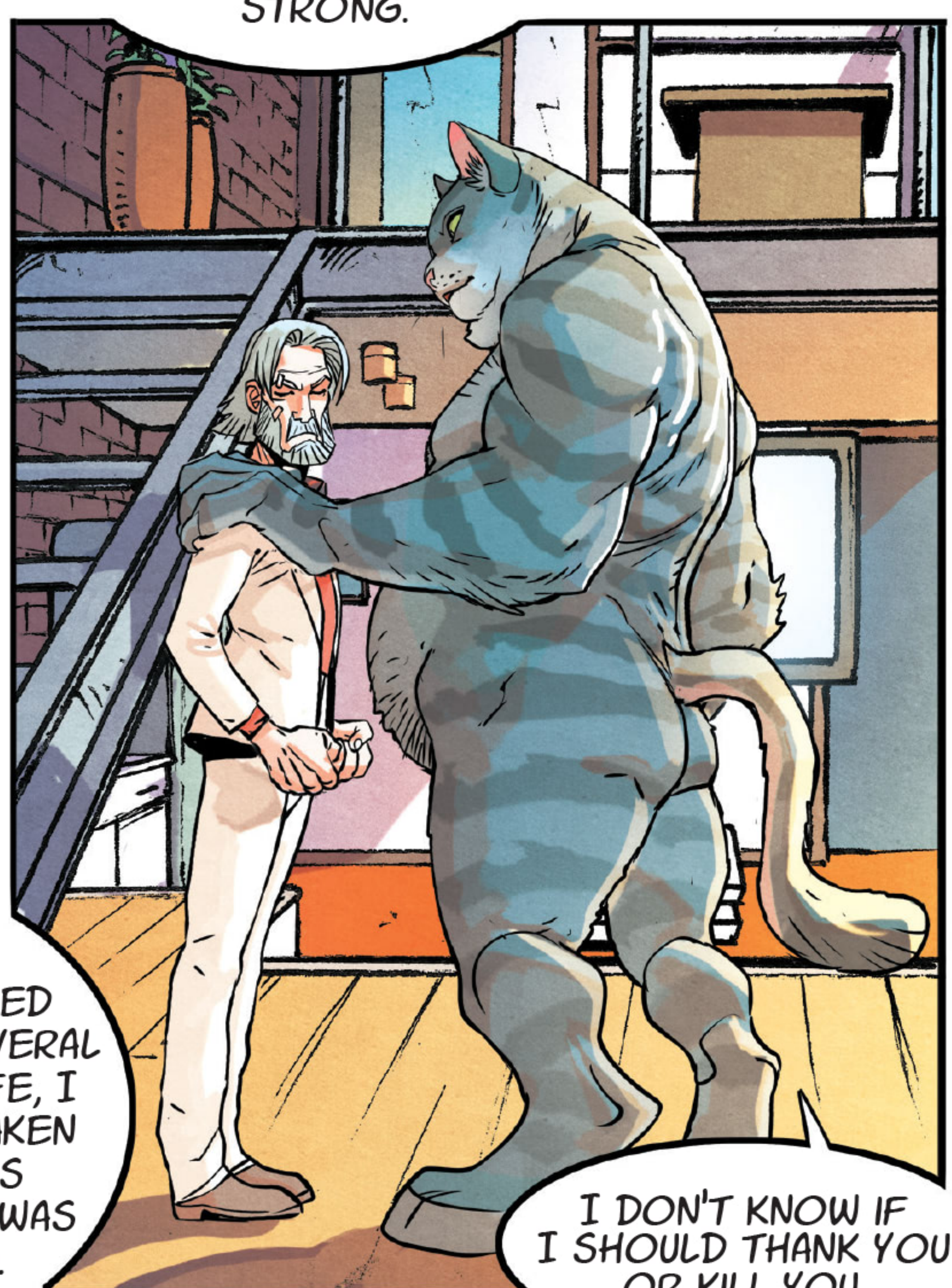
SO I
PULLED
HARDER.



AND PULLED
TOO HARD?

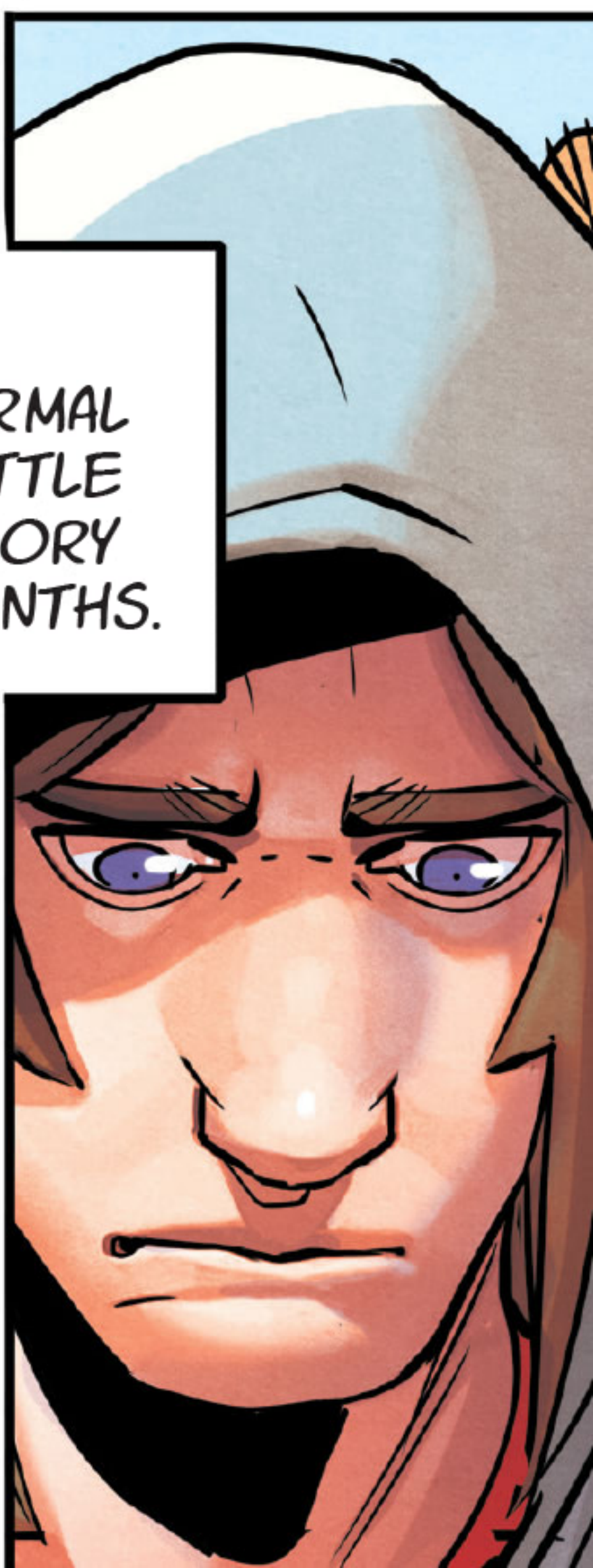
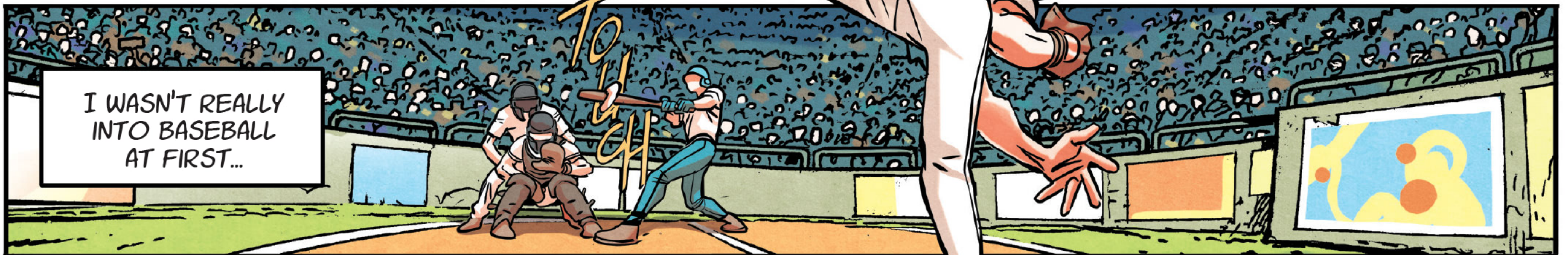
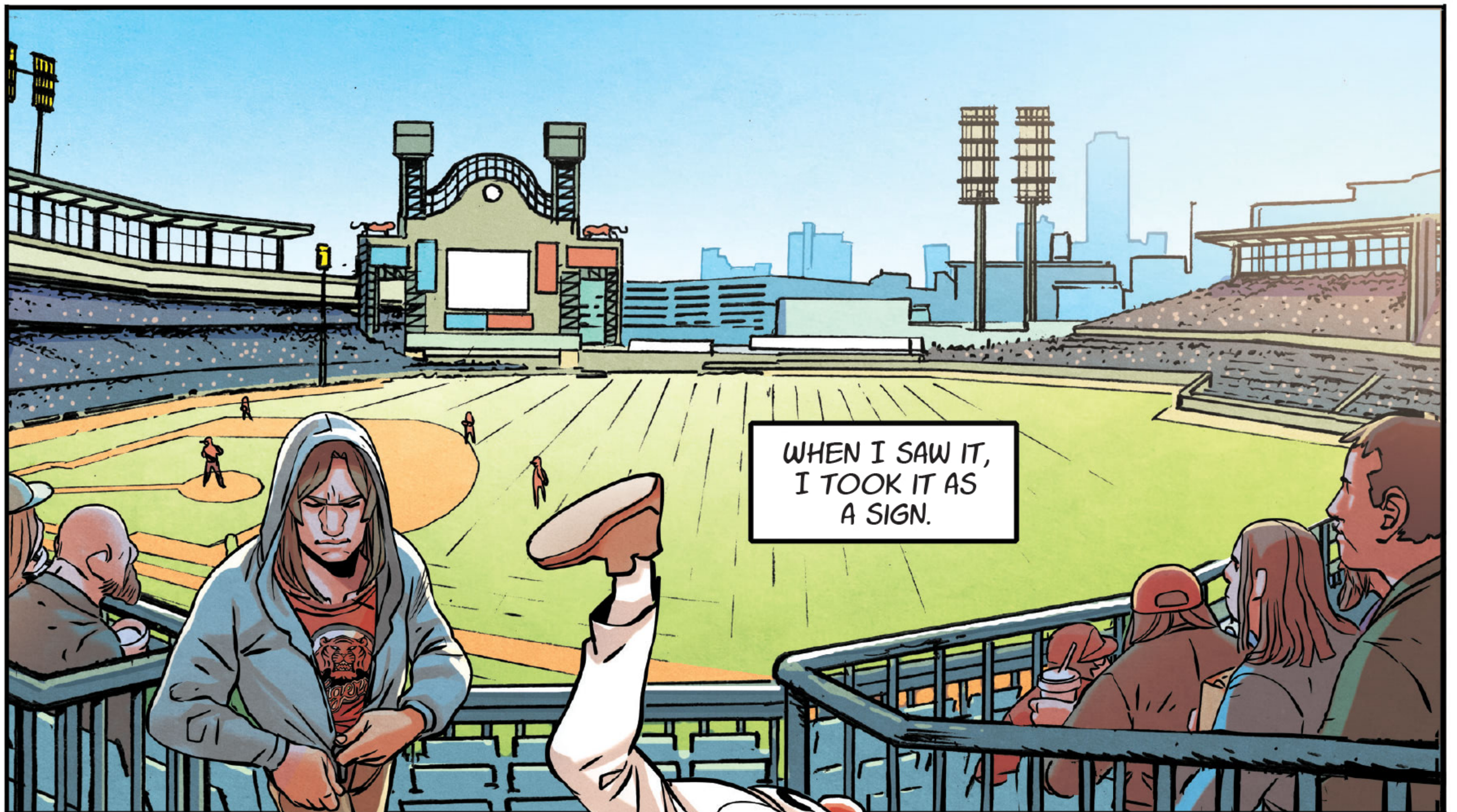
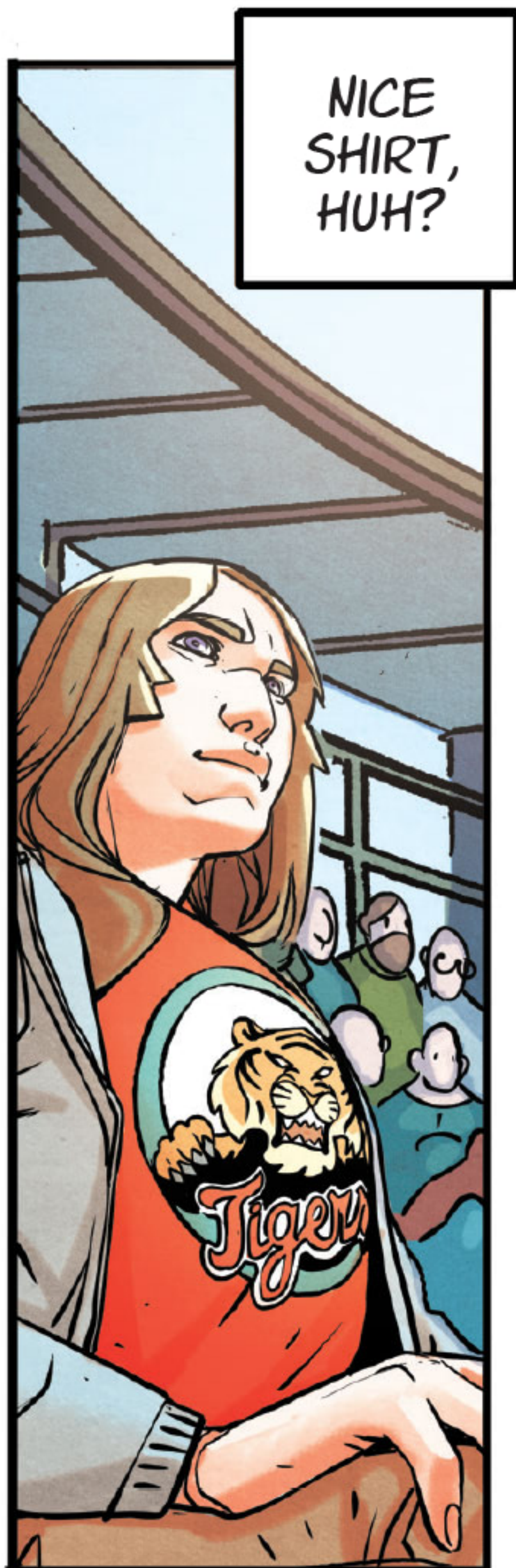
WELL...

...WHEN I REALIZED
I HAD ERASED SEVERAL
YEARS OF HIS LIFE, I
DECIDED TO WEAKEN
HIM AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE. BUT I WAS
INTERRUPTED.



I DON'T KNOW IF
I SHOULD THANK YOU
OR KILL YOU.



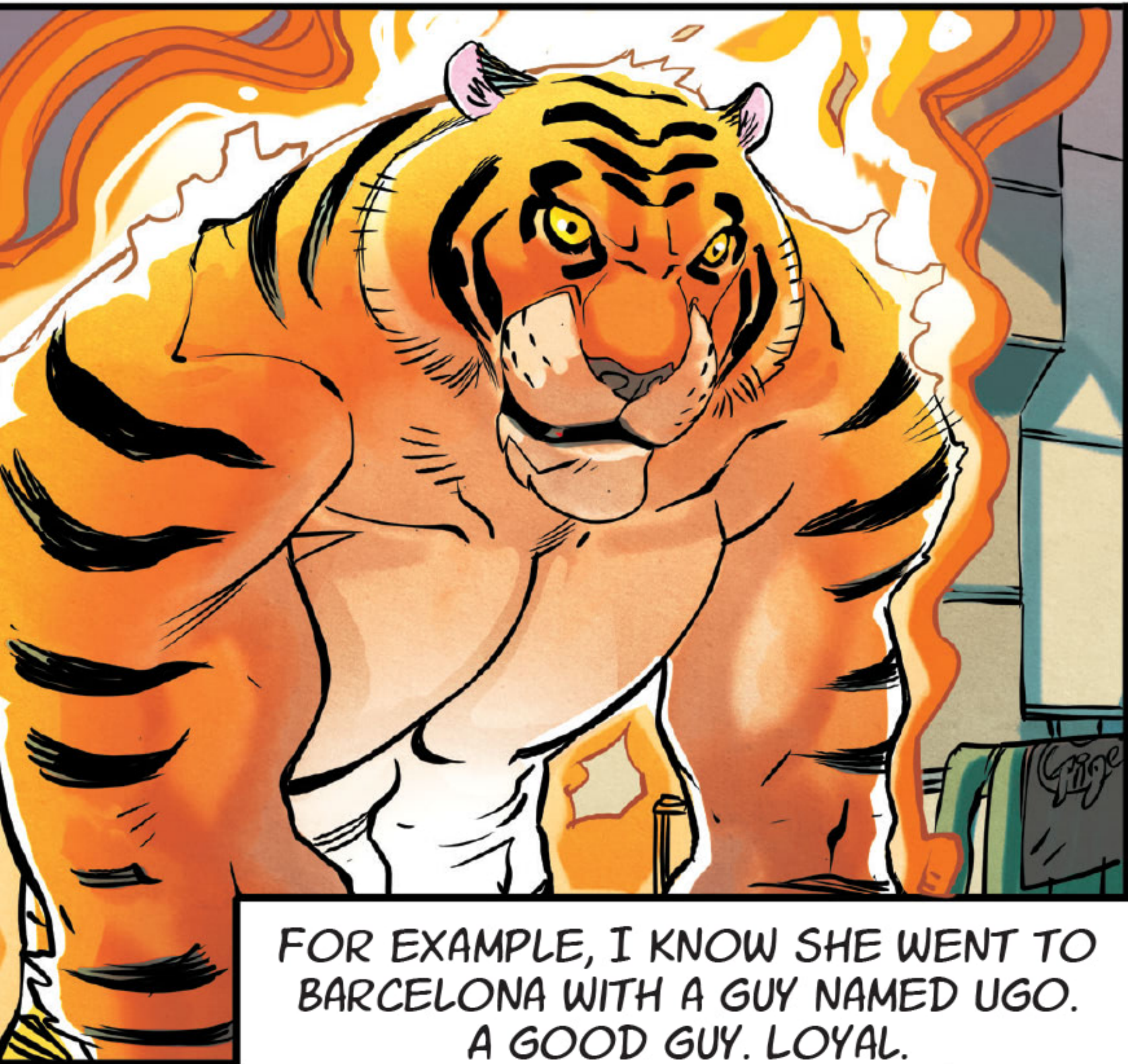


MY TRAINING ISN'T JUST PHYSICAL. I ALSO TRY TO WORK ON MY MEMORY.

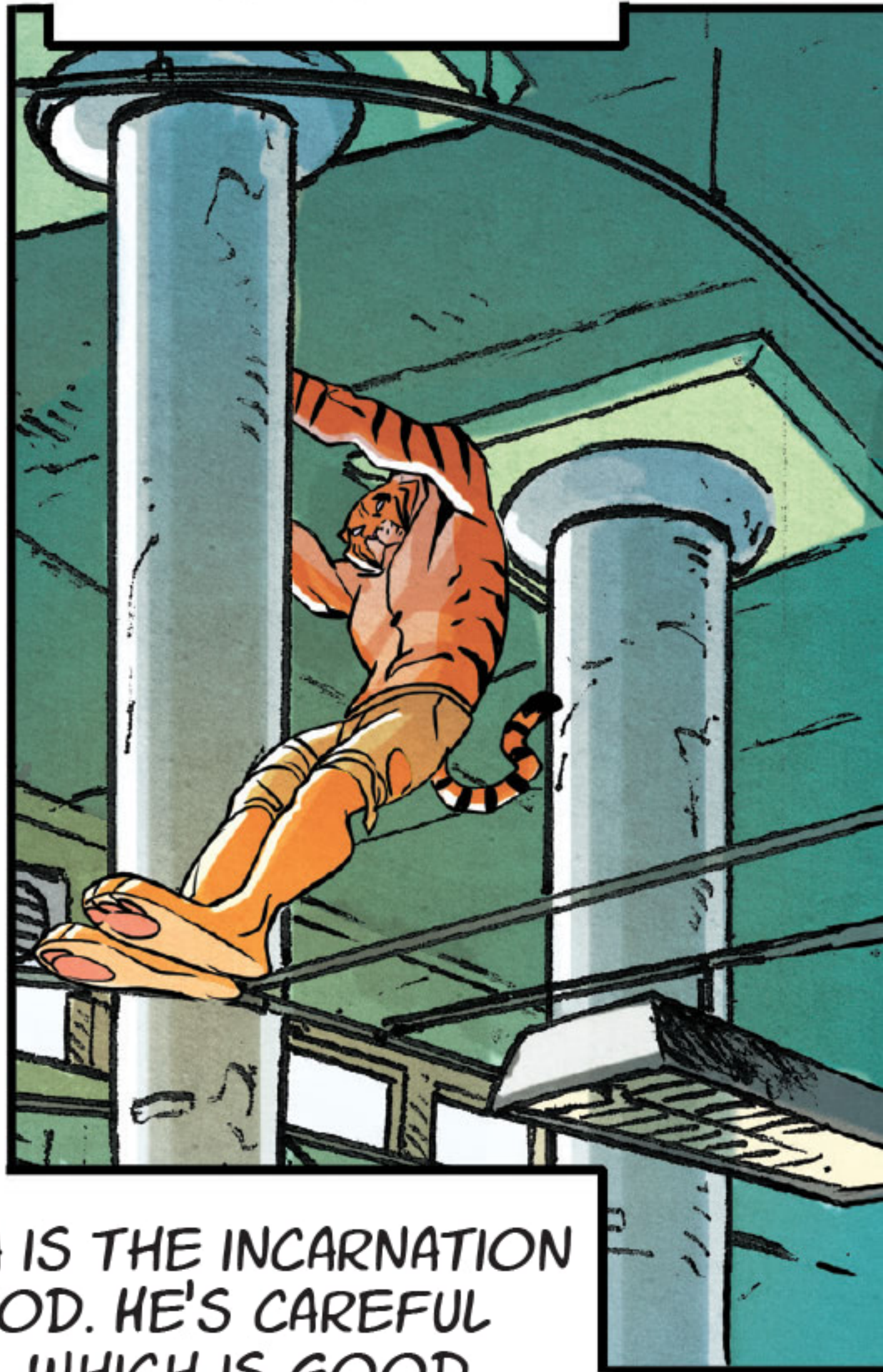
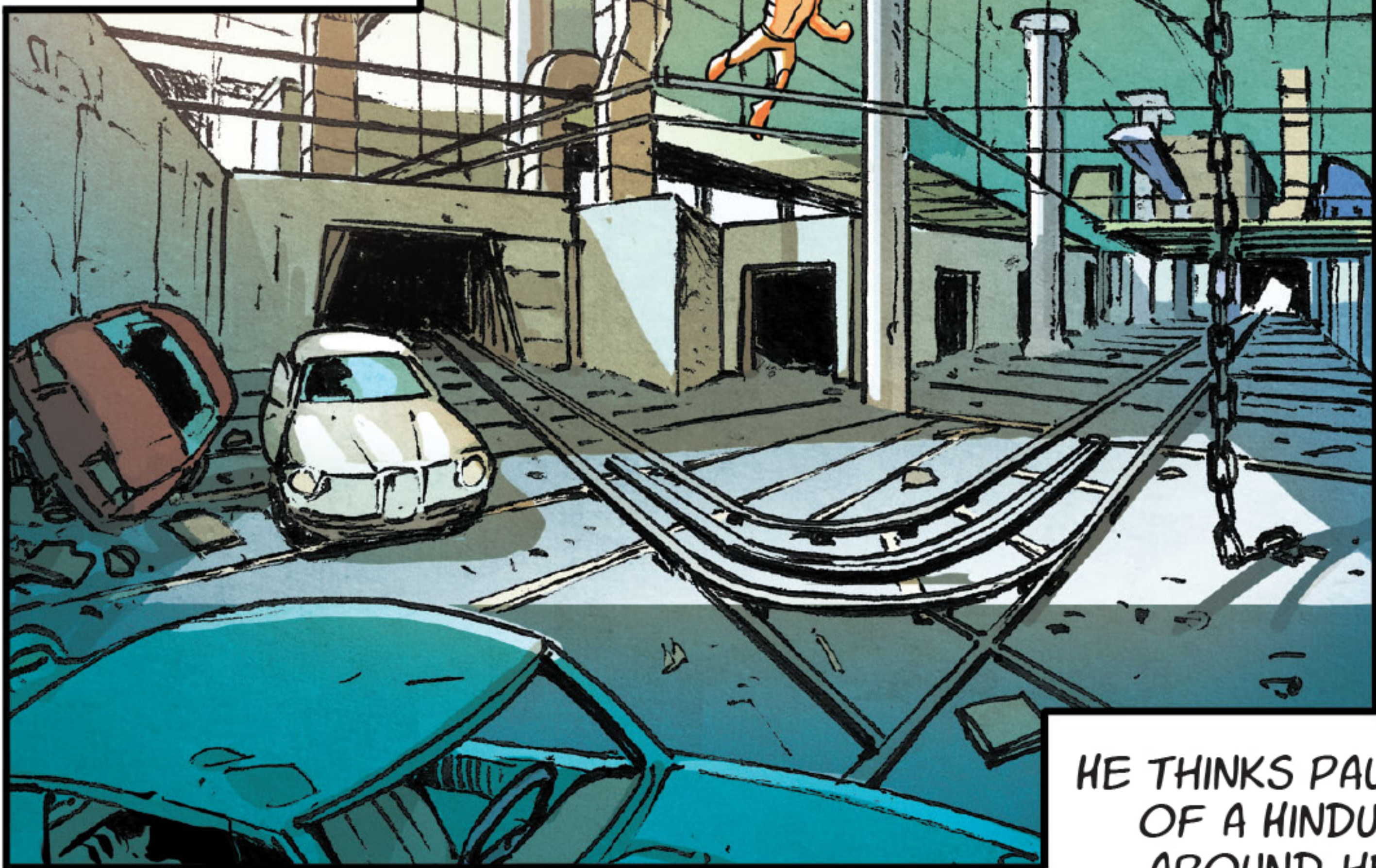
SHARING MEMORIES WITH PAULA HELPS.



I CAN'T REALLY TALK TO HER, BUT I CAN SENSE WHAT SHE'S EXPERIENCING THROUGH THE SILENCE ALL AROUND ME.

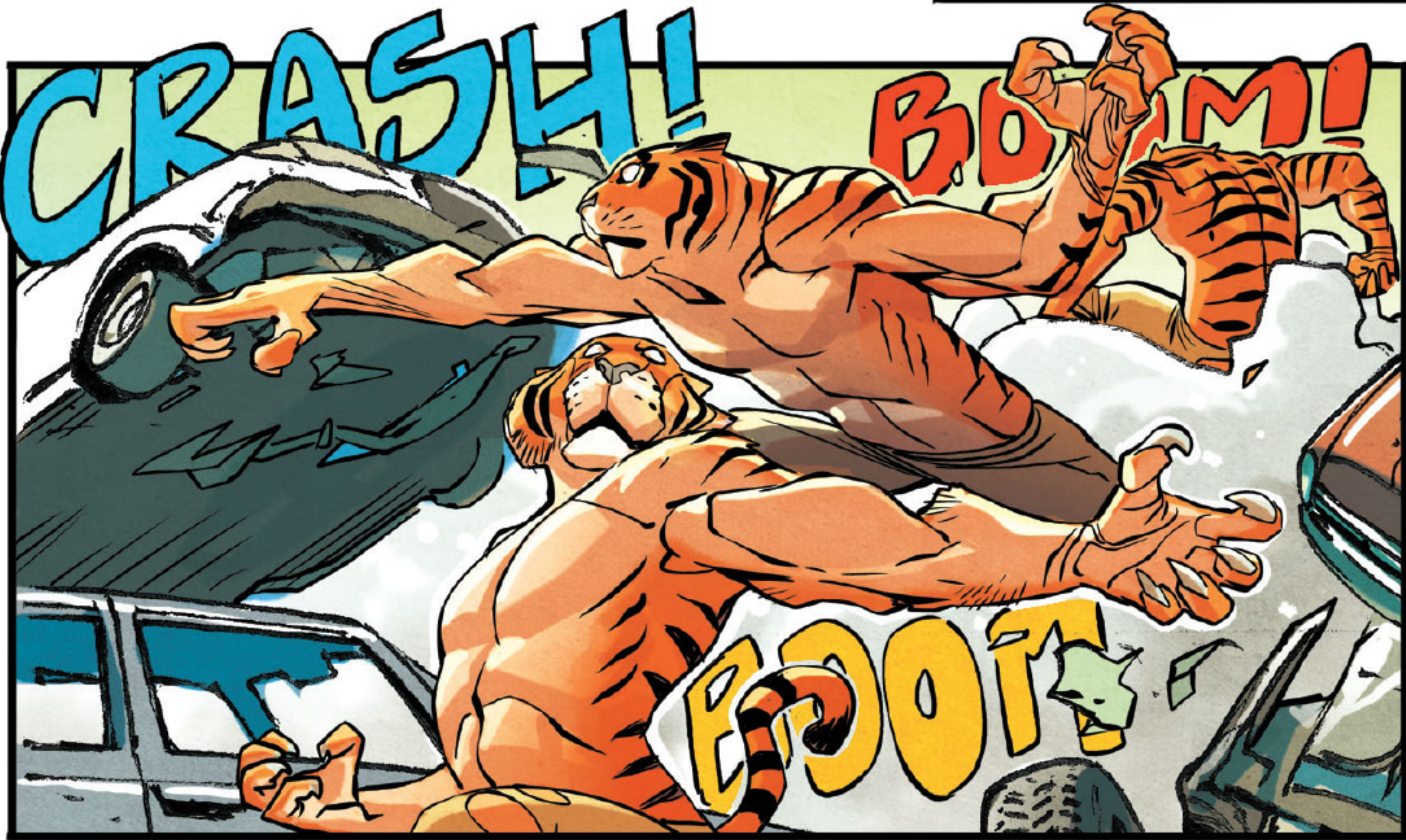


MAYBE A BIT STRANGE AND RELIGIOUS.



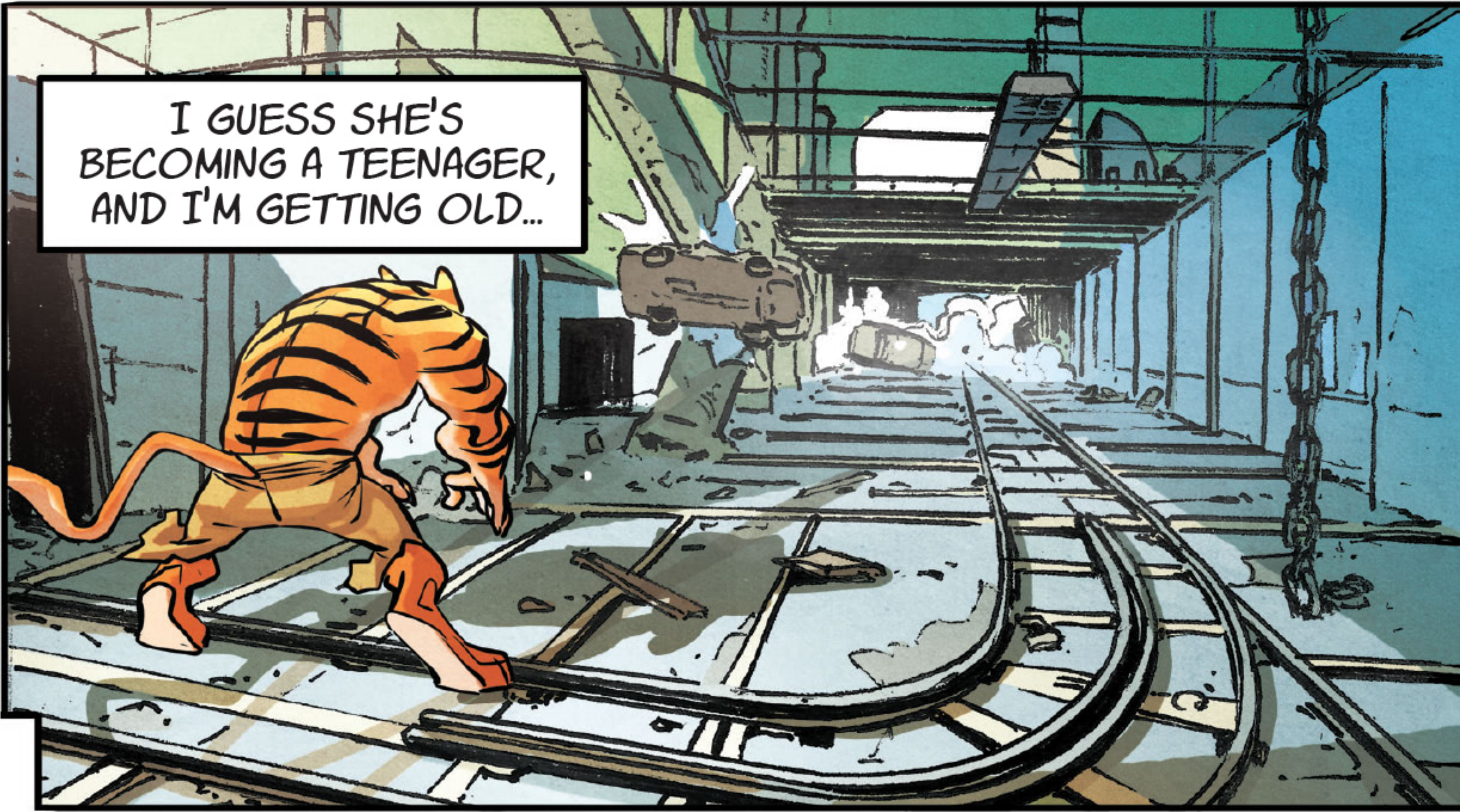
HE THINKS PAULA IS THE INCARNATION OF A HINDU GOD. HE'S CAREFUL AROUND HER, WHICH IS GOOD.

FOR EXAMPLE, I KNOW SHE WENT TO BARCELONA WITH A GUY NAMED UGO. A GOOD GUY. LOYAL.



BUT WHENEVER I REACH OUT TO HER, I CAN FEEL HER RETICENCE. AS IF SHE'S MAD AT ME FOR SOMETHING.

I GUESS SHE'S BECOMING A TEENAGER, AND I'M GETTING OLD...



I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I WAS A PRISONER, BUT DIZHI POWERS CAN GET RUSTY JUST LIKE ANYTHING ELSE!



I'M SORE!

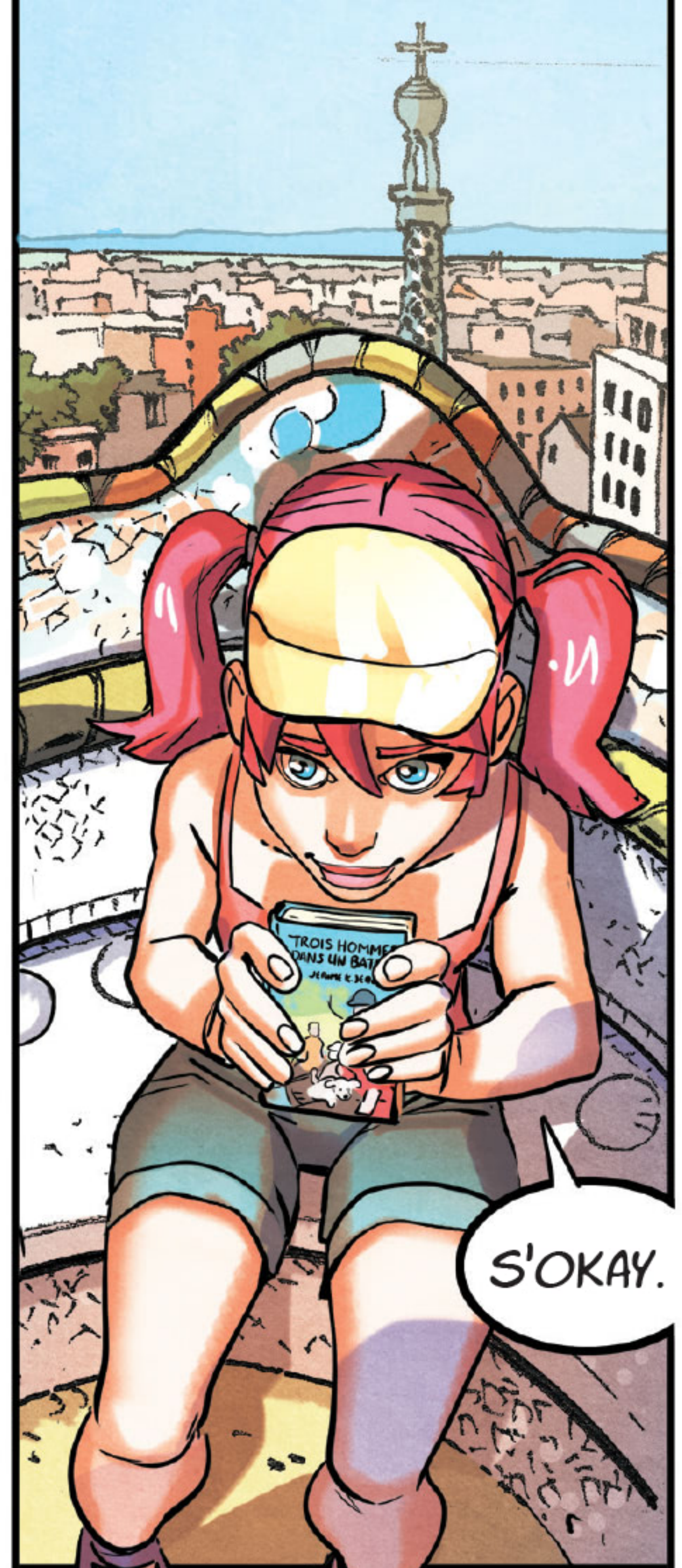




I HOPE PAULA DOESN'T PICK UP ANY MEMORIES OF WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO...



GOOD BOOK?

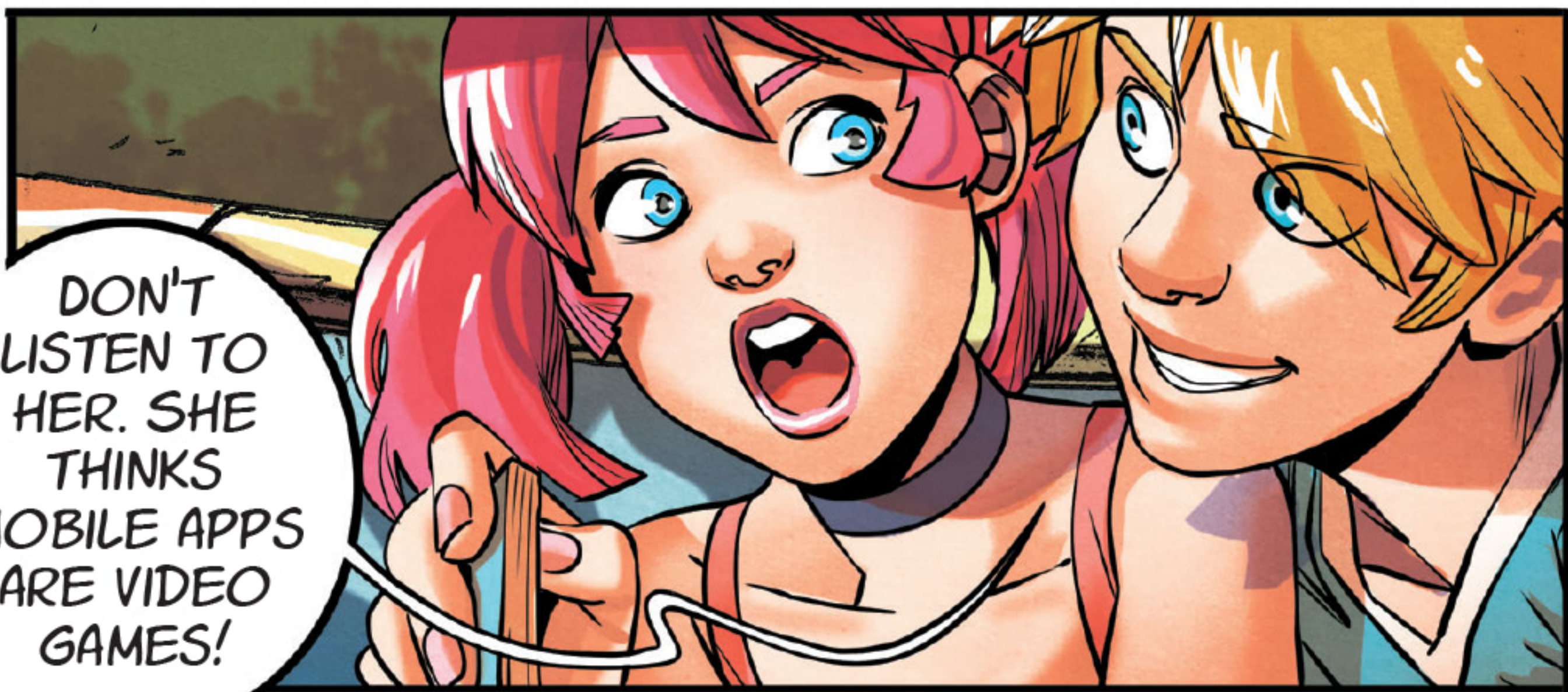


S'OKAY.

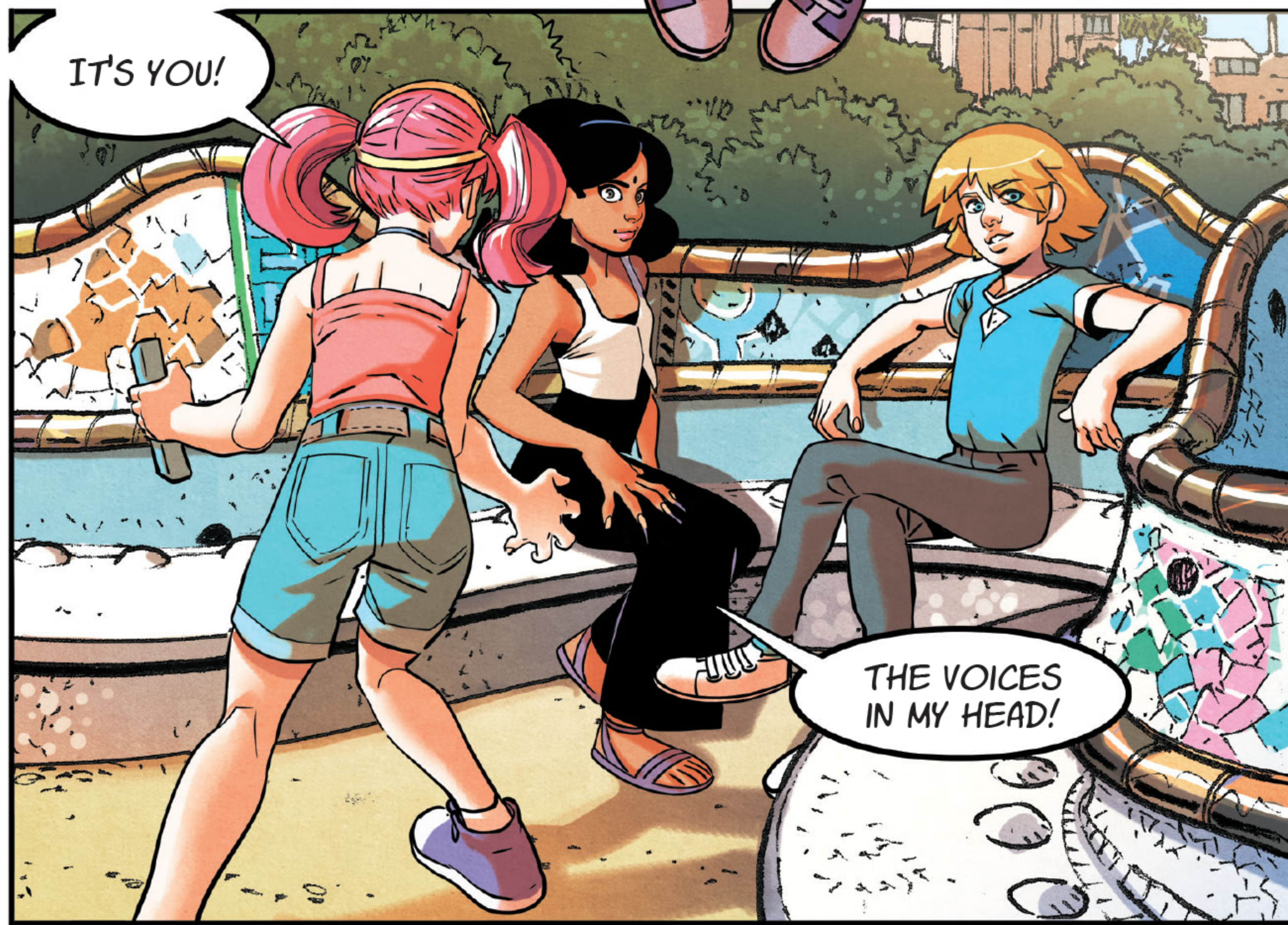


I PREFER VIDEO GAMES.

HAH!

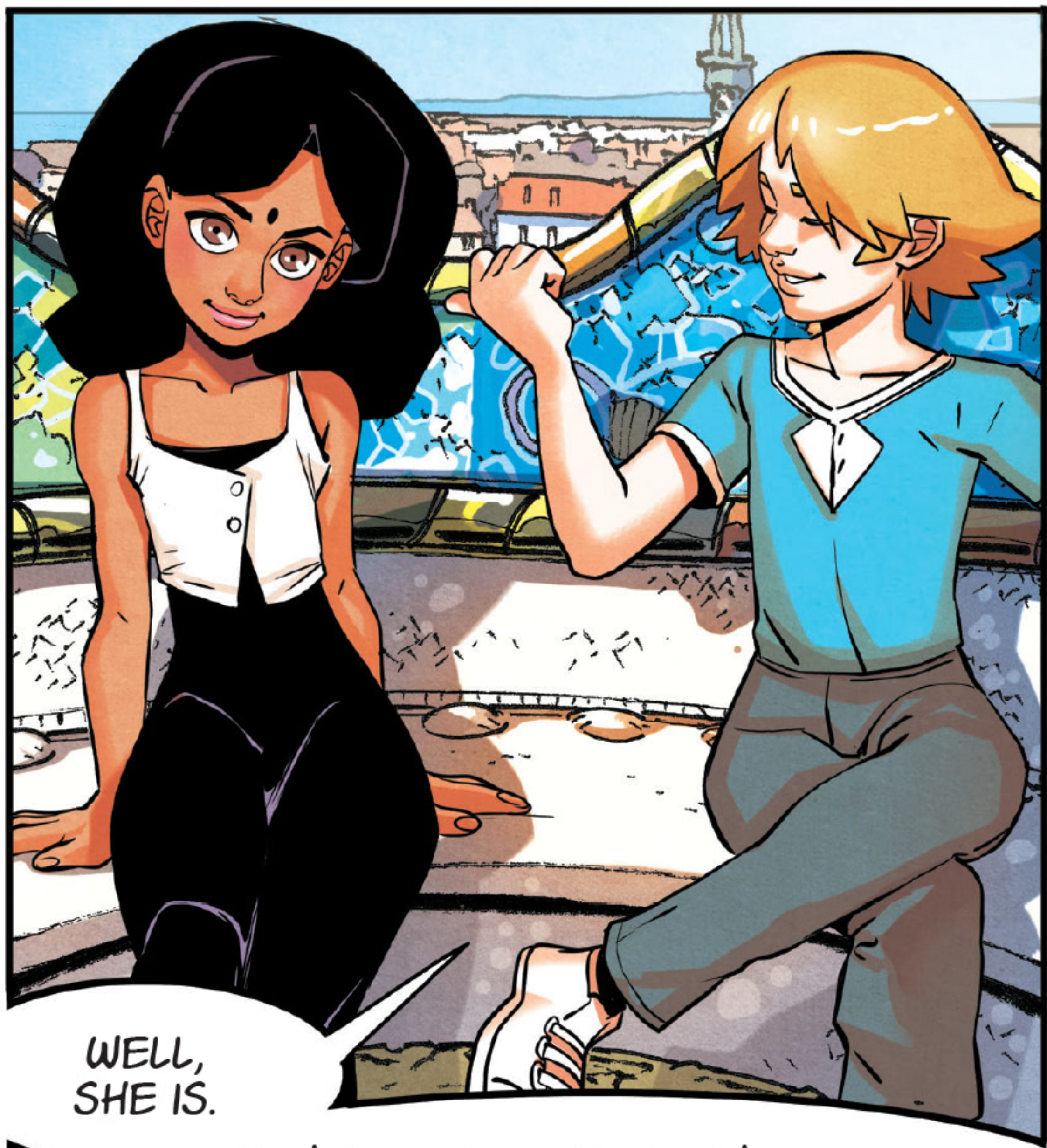


DON'T LISTEN TO HER. SHE THINKS MOBILE APPS ARE VIDEO GAMES!



IT'S YOU!

THE VOICES IN MY HEAD!

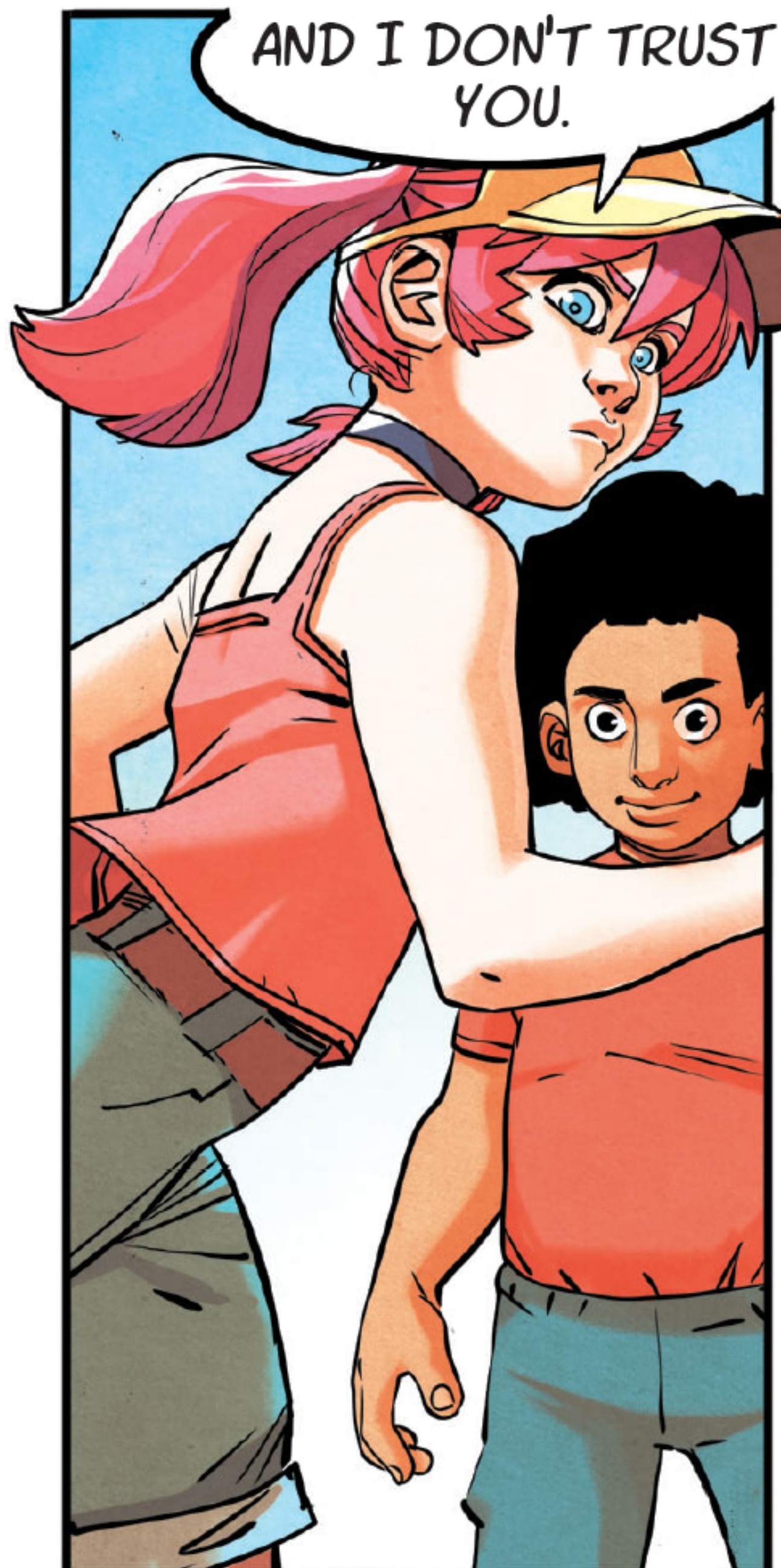


WELL, SHE IS.

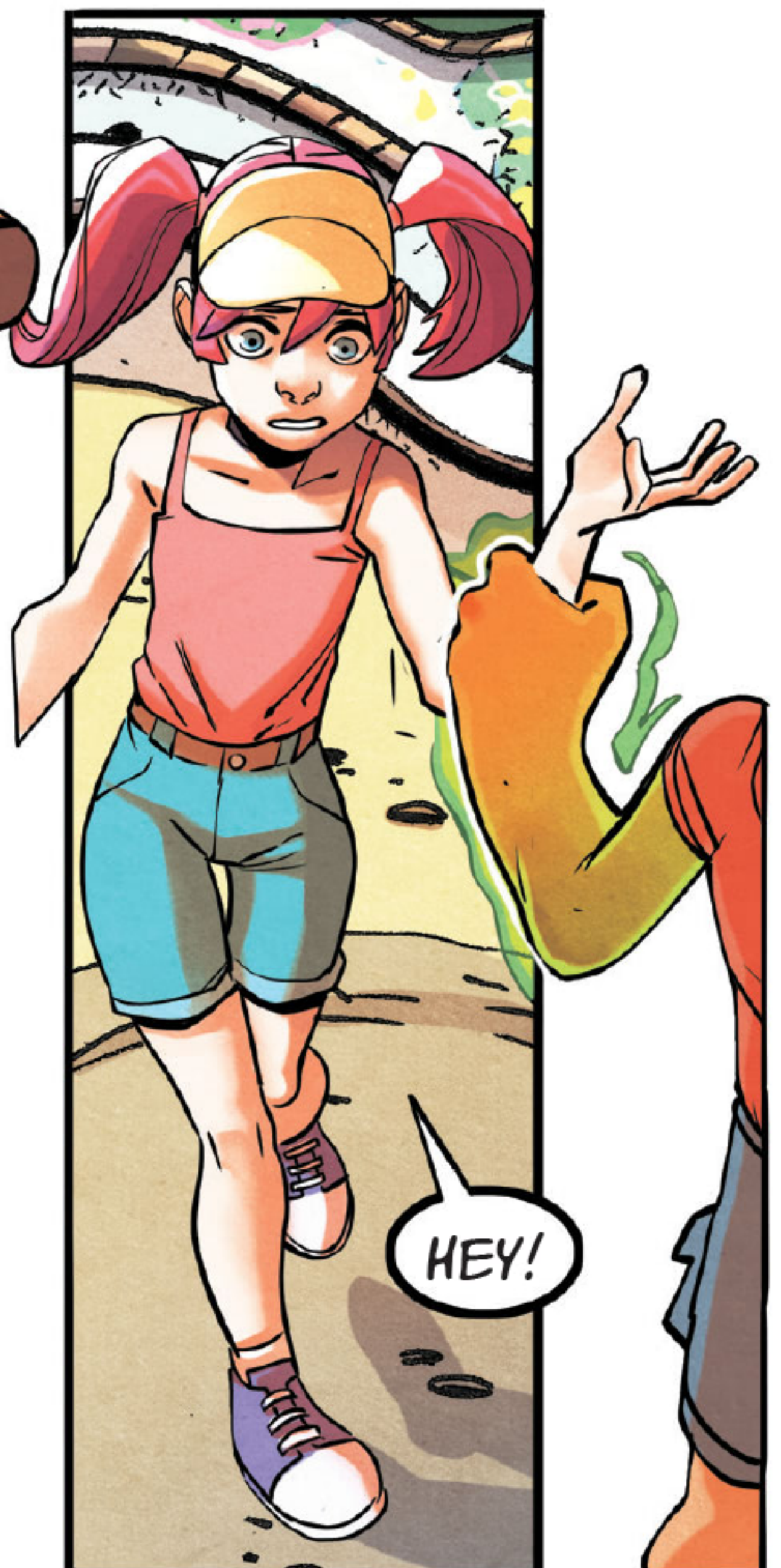
DON'T BE SURPRISED. WE'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU CAME TO MEET US!



I DON'T KNOW YOU.



AND I DON'T TRUST YOU.



HEY!



IF SOMEBODY
TOLD ME I'D
BE DOING THIS
ONE DAY...



I'M NOT GOING CRAZY. THIS IS
JUST THE EASIEST AND FASTEST
WAY TO CONTACT "THE KLAW."

SEEMS STUPID, I KNOW, BUT WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

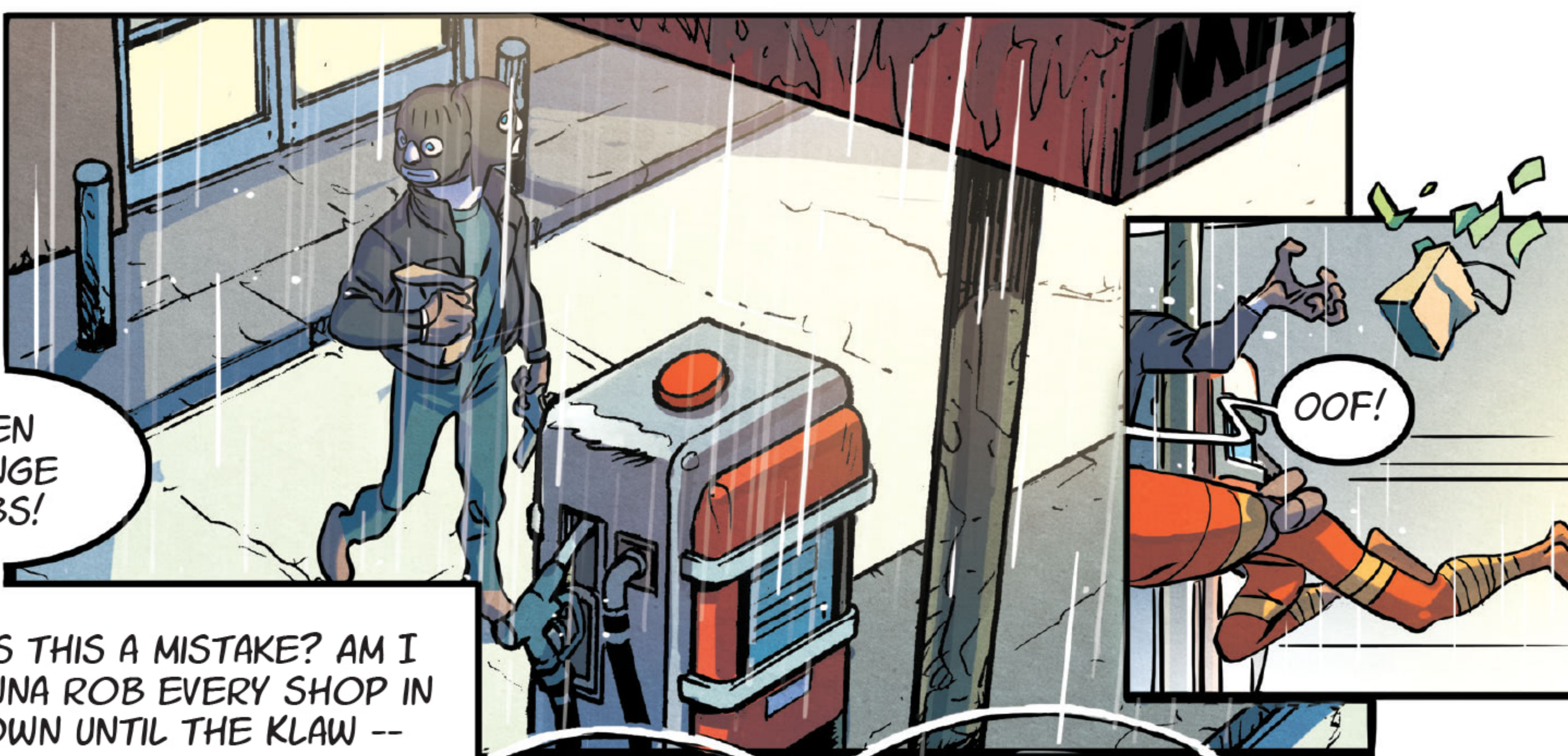


HANDS UP! GIMME
THE CASH!

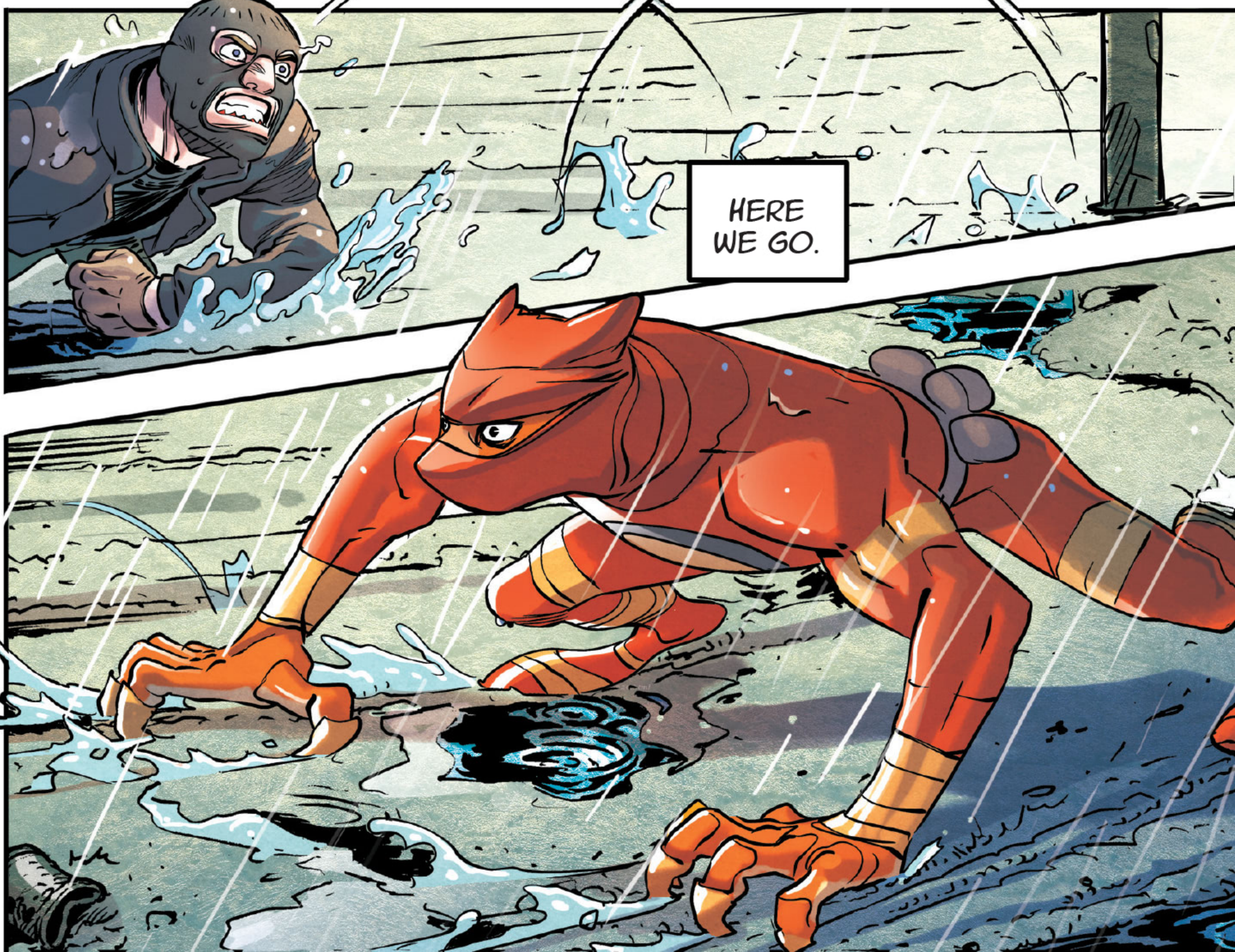
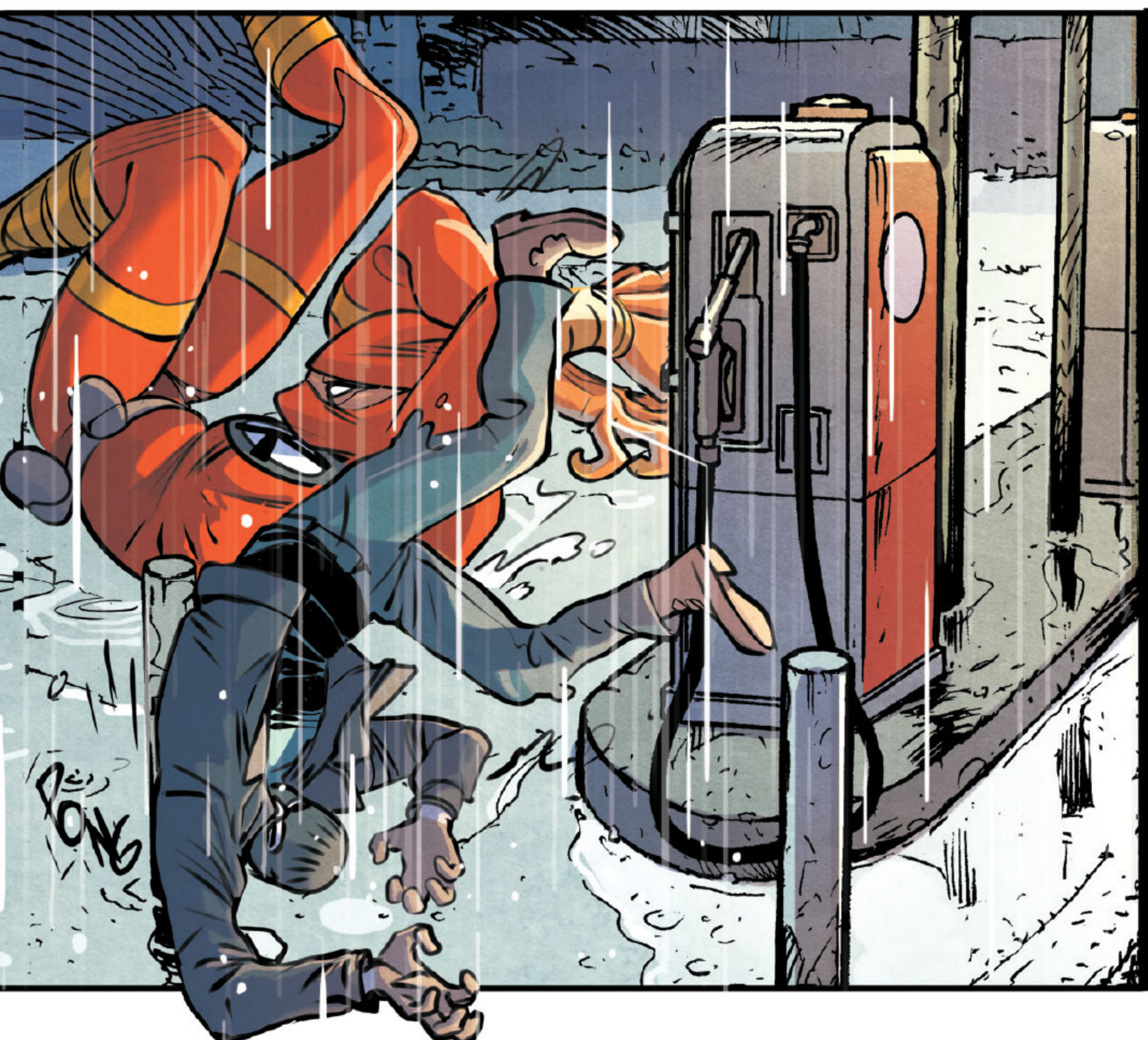


GOOD. NO HEROICS.
I DON'T WANNA HURT
YOU...

THEN
CHANGE
JOBS!

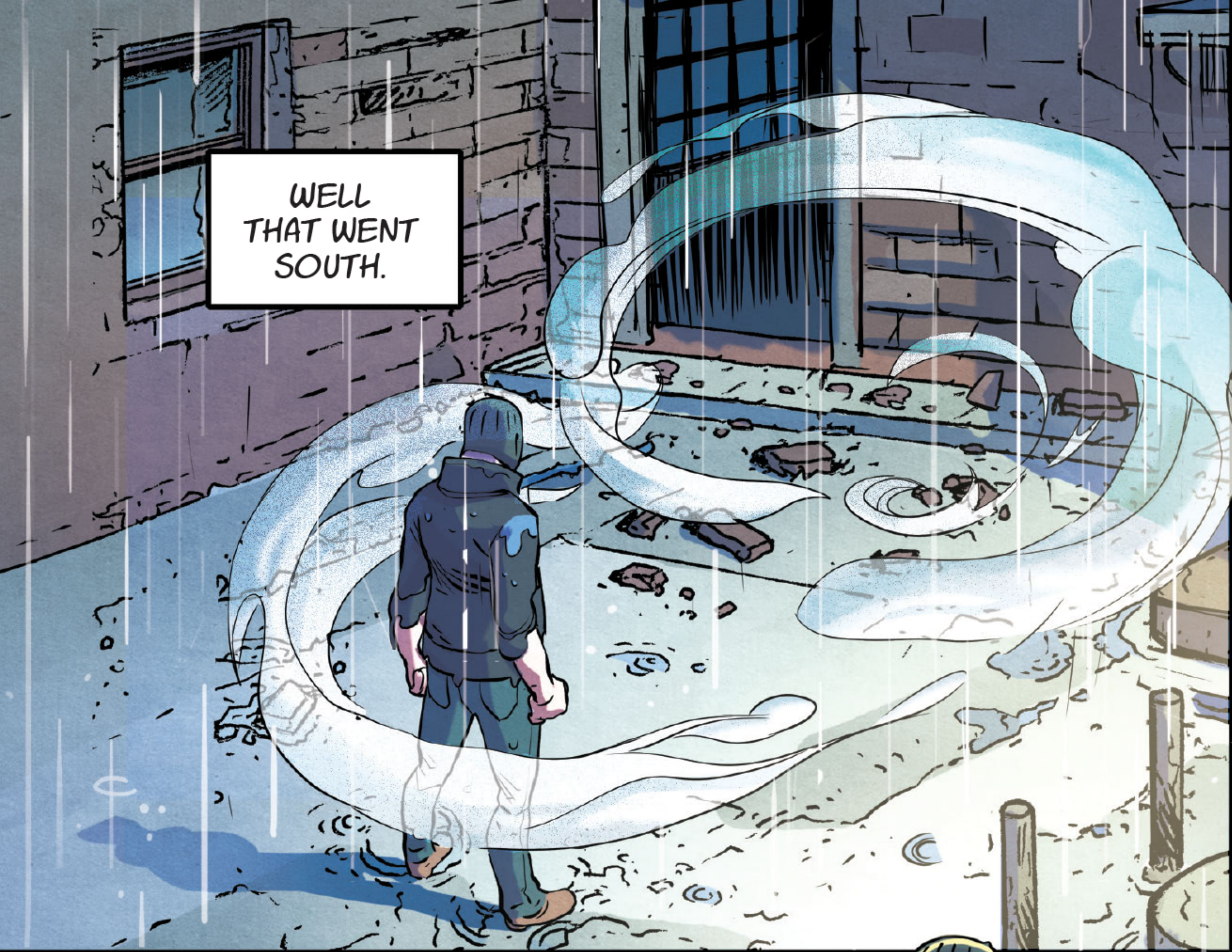


WAS THIS A MISTAKE? AM I
GONNA ROB EVERY SHOP IN
TOWN UNTIL THE KLAW --



HERE
WE GO.

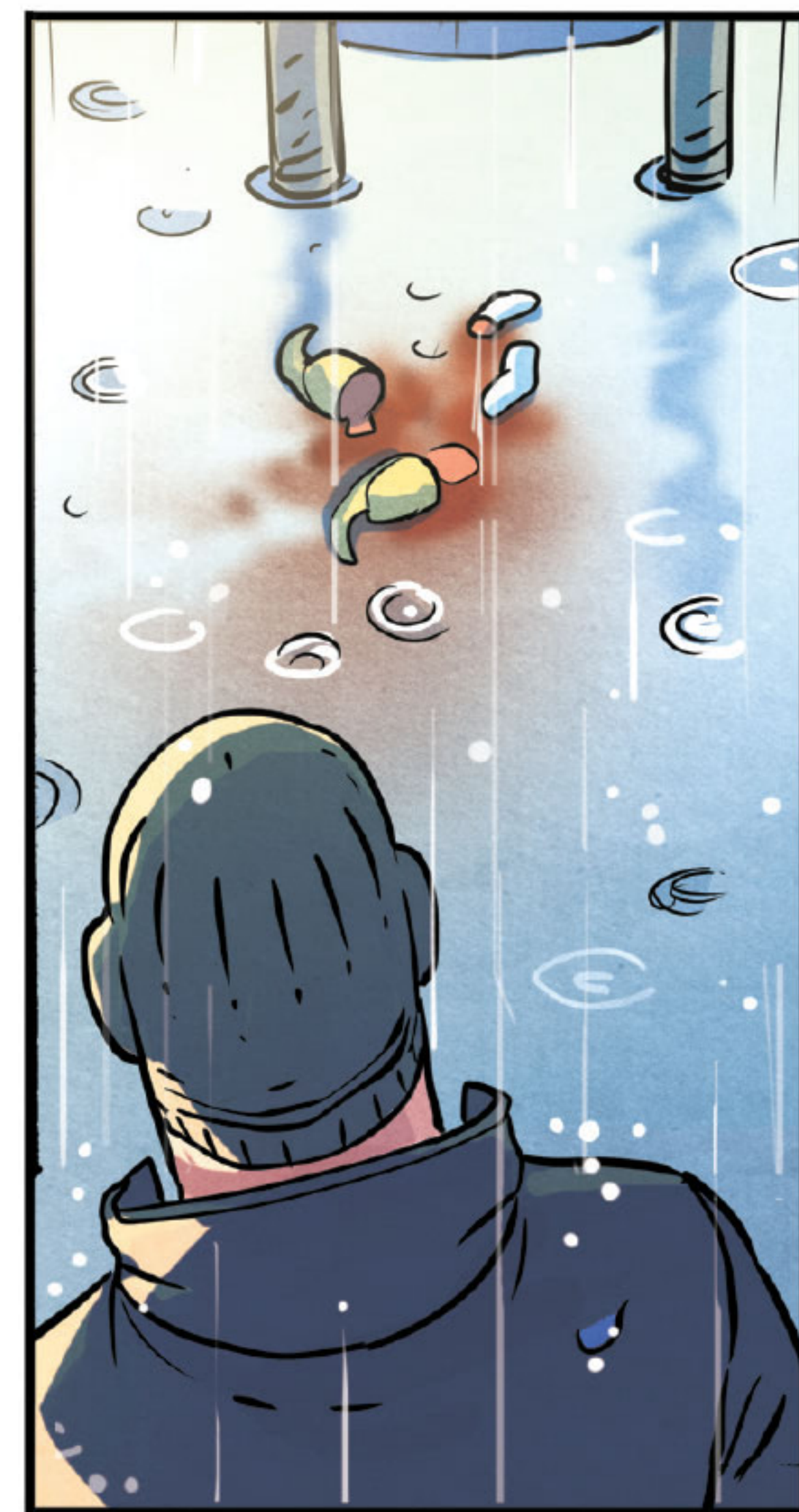




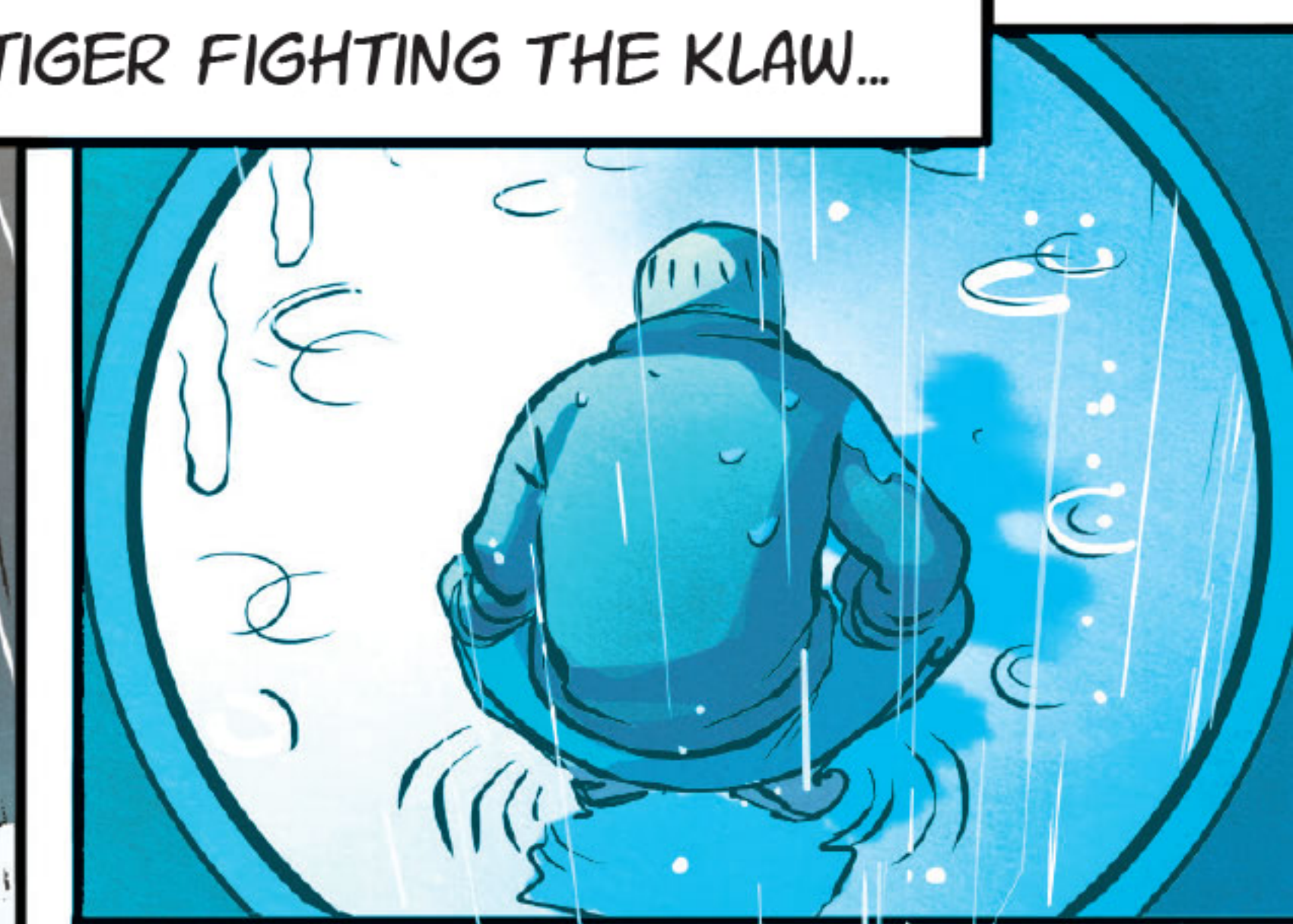
WELL
THAT WENT
SOUTH.



WHAT'S
THAT...?



WELL, AT LEAST NOW
I KNOW I'M LOOKING
FOR SOMEONE WITH
TWO LESS FINGERS.



THE TIGER FIGHTING THE KLAU...

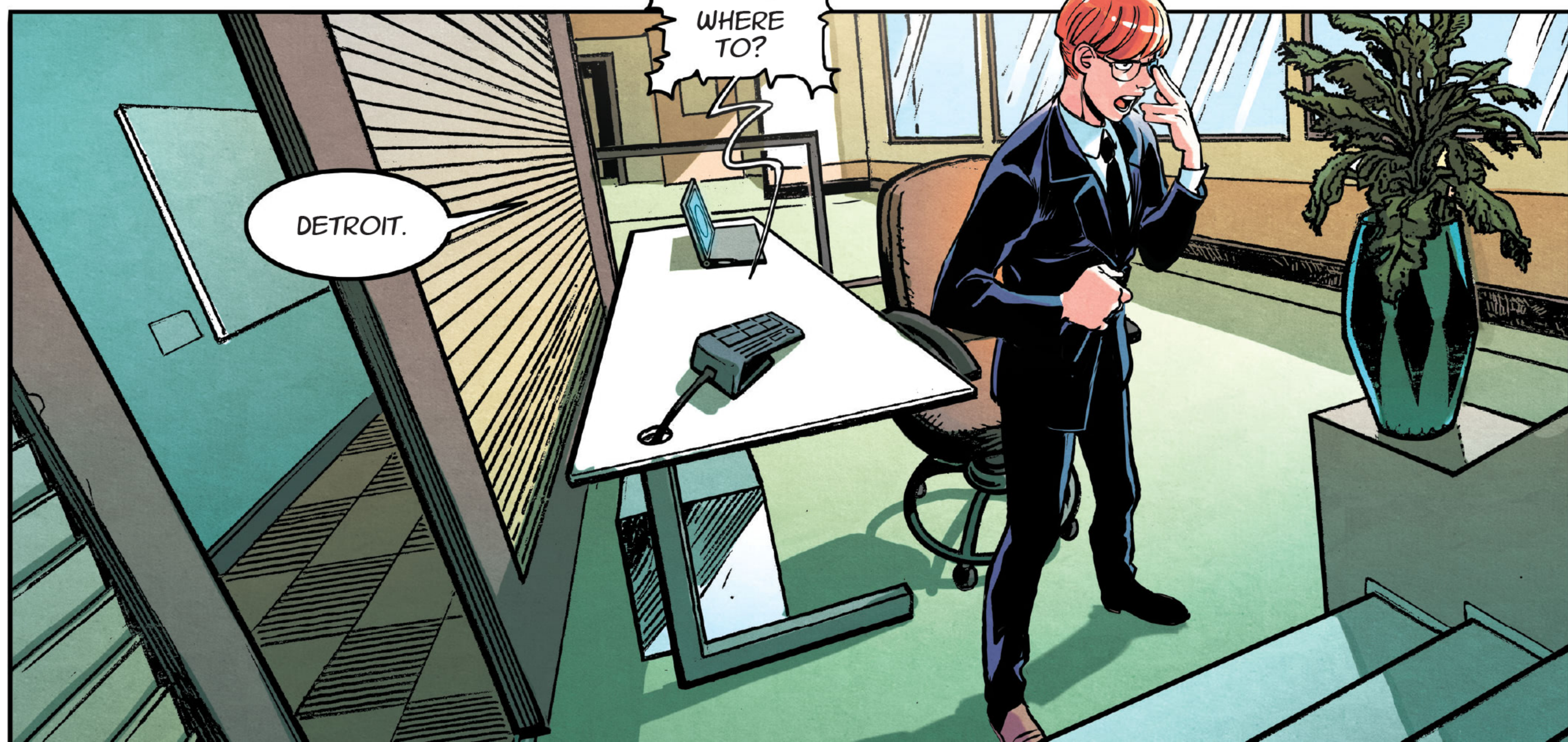


...ANGE, WHAT
SORTA TROUBLE
ARE YOU INVOLVED
IN NOW?



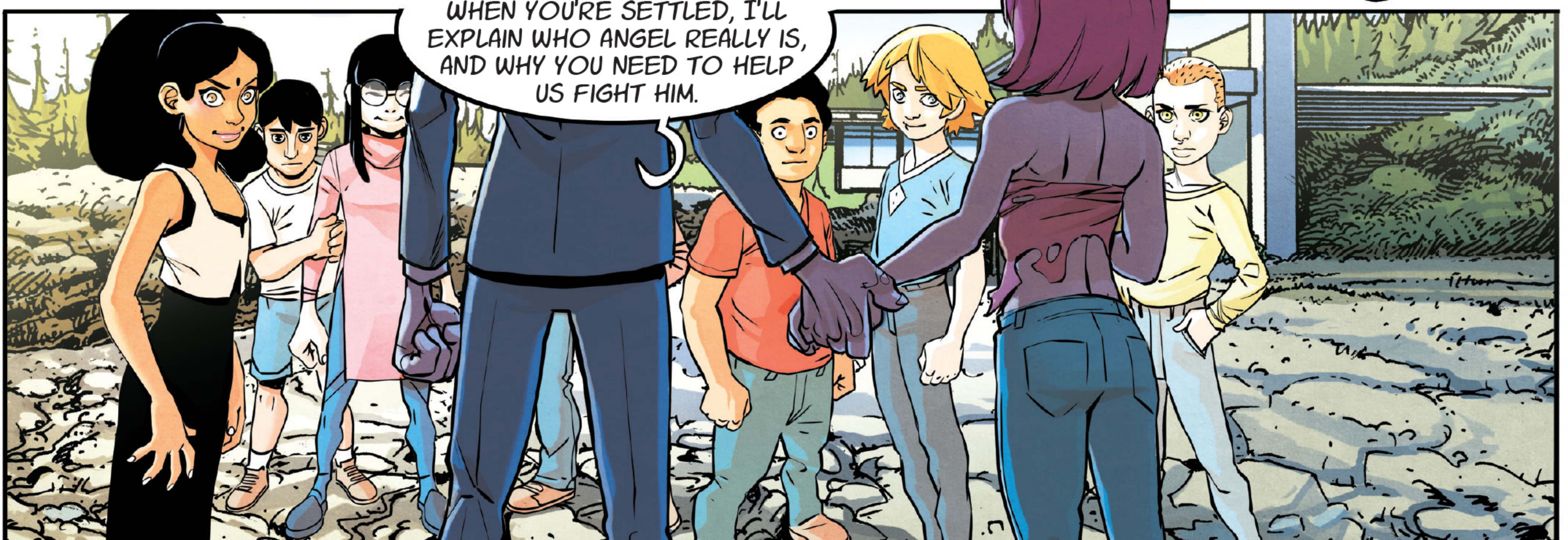
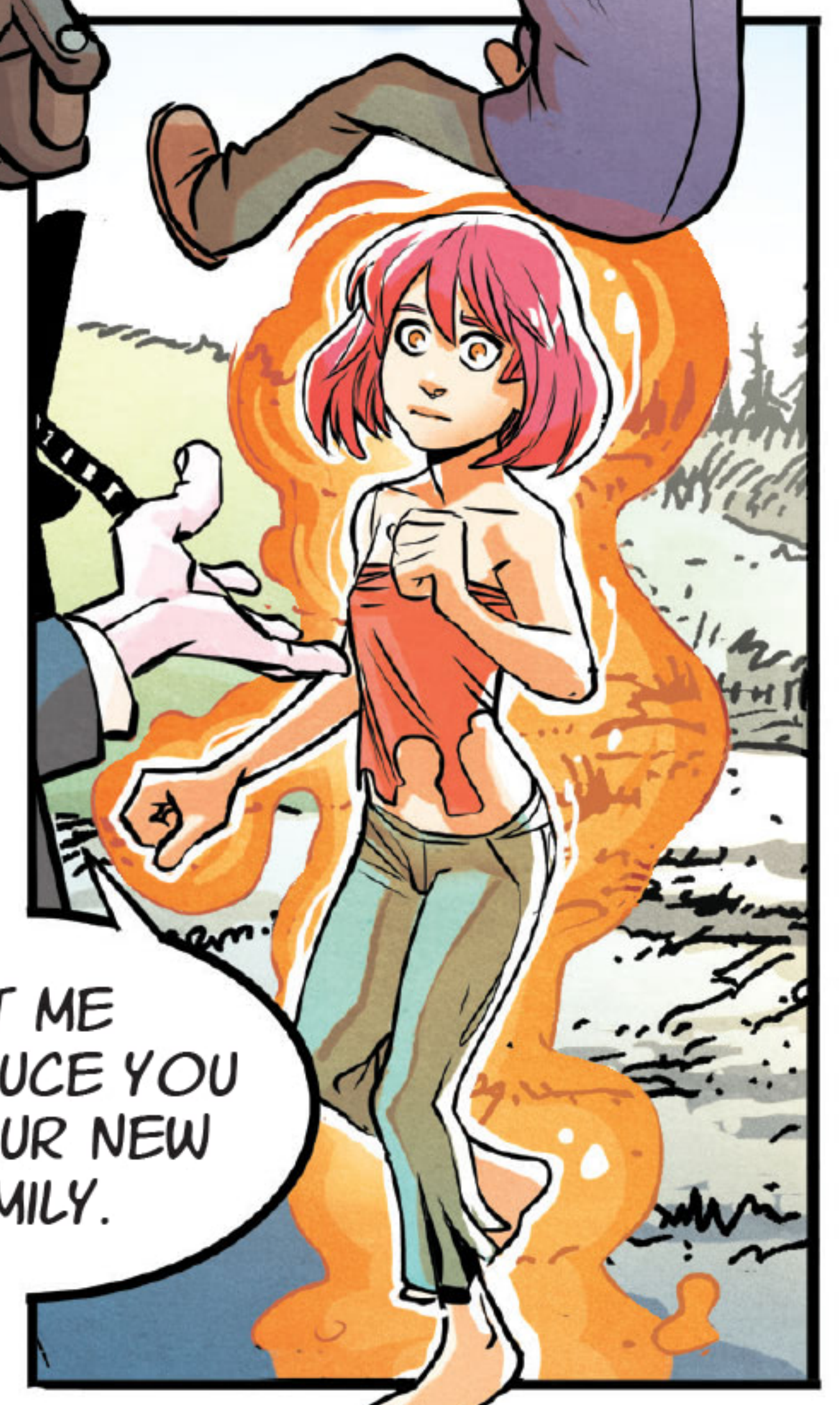
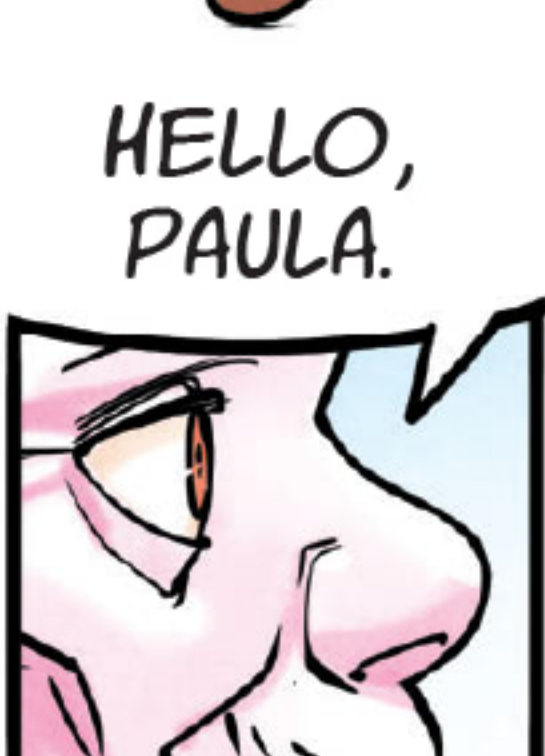
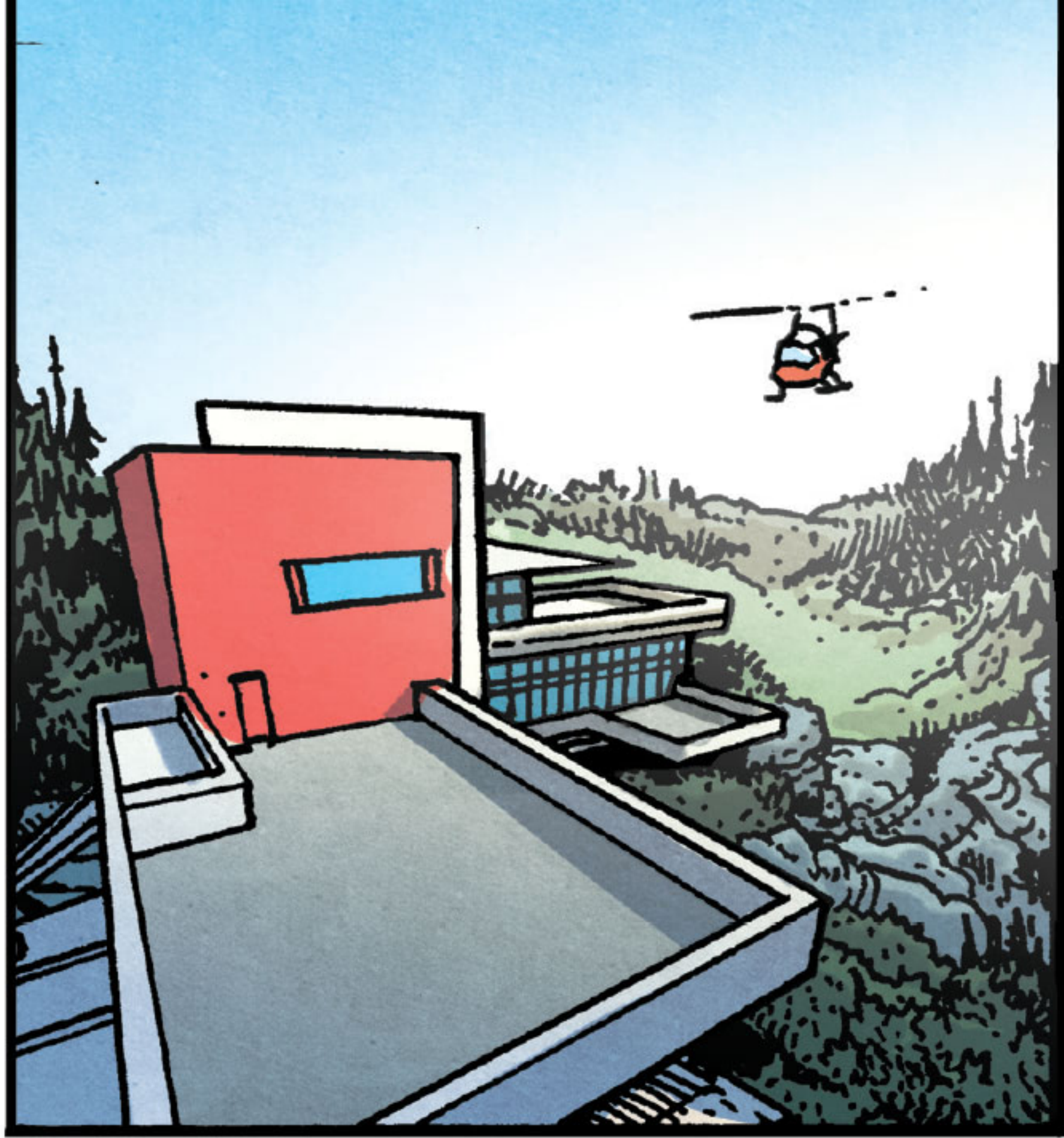
MATHIAS, PREP
AN INTERVENTION
TEAM WITH FIVE
OF OUR BEST.

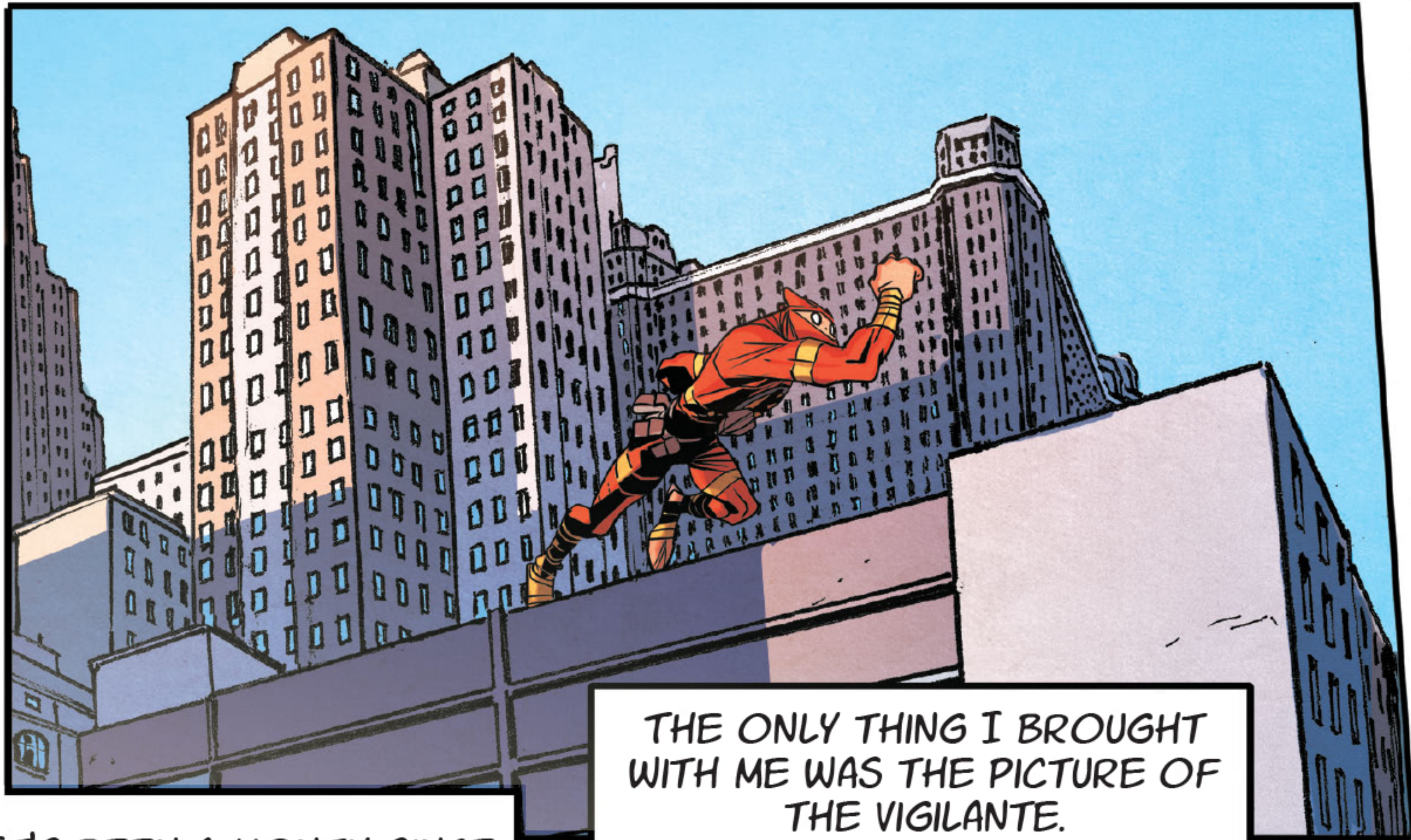
YOU GOT
IT, BOSS.



WHERE
TO?

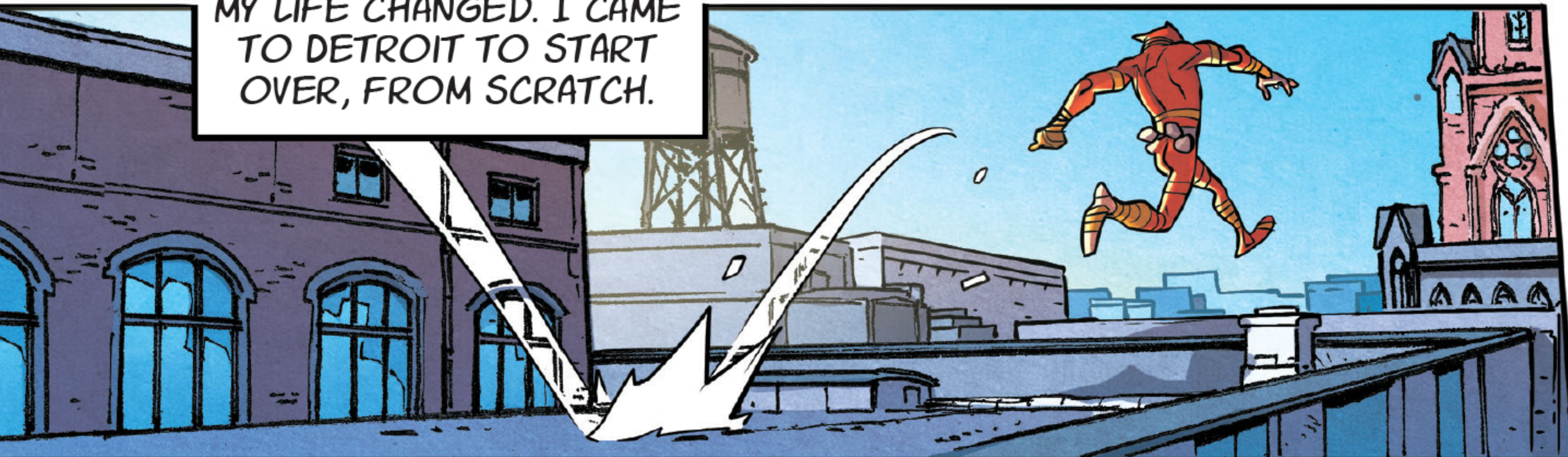
DETROIT.





THE ONLY THING I BROUGHT
WITH ME WAS THE PICTURE OF
THE VIGILANTE.

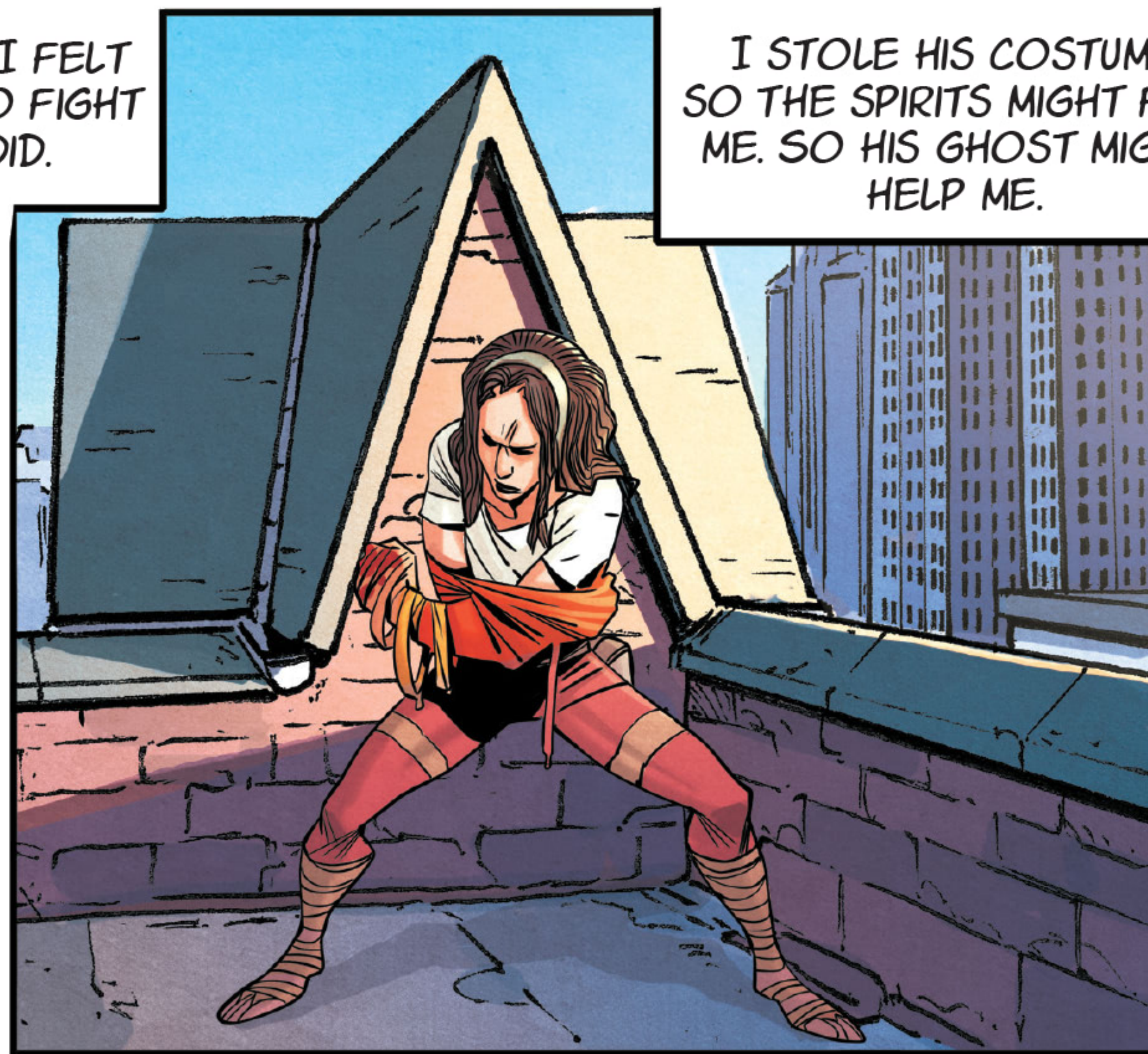
IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE
MY LIFE CHANGED. I CAME
TO DETROIT TO START
OVER, FROM SCRATCH.



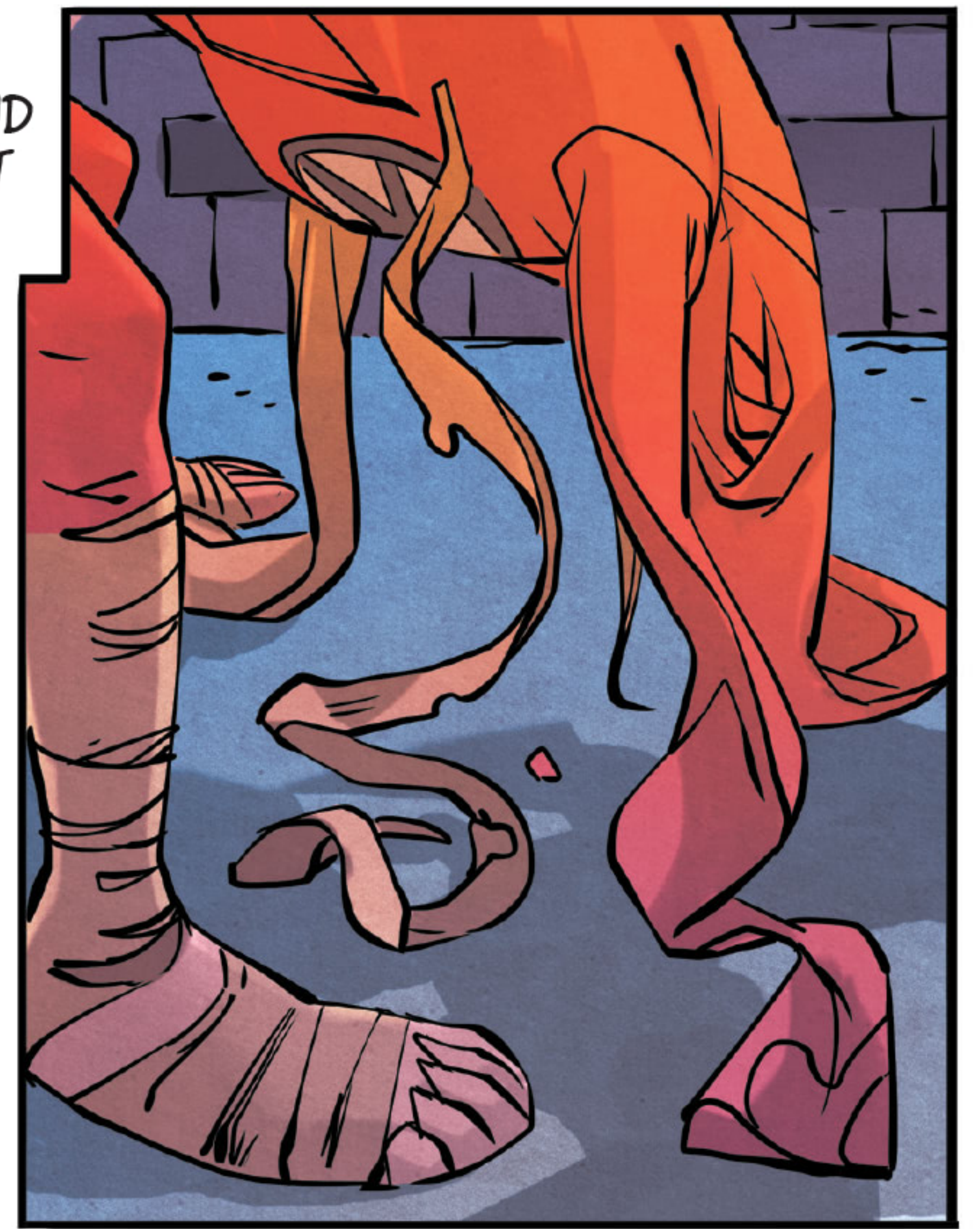
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED THAT DAY IN
THE PARKING GARAGE...



...BUT I KNOW THAT I FELT
STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT
CRIME LIKE HE DID.



I STOLE HIS COSTUME
SO THE SPIRITS MIGHT FIND
ME. SO HIS GHOST MIGHT
HELP ME.



I THOUGHT
I KNEW MY
POWERS...

...BUT THIS? THIS IS BEYOND
MY UNDERSTANDING!



DETROIT IS
MY TOWN
NOW...

...I'M ITS
PROTECTOR.

ITS SUPER
HERO.

PART NINE:
PANIC IN
DETROIT





LAST THURSDAY.

BEFORE THE IMPACT. IT WAS HOT. AMELIA AND I WERE DYING FOR SOMETHING SPARKLING AND REFRESHING TO DRINK... JUST NOT GLU-SO!



WE WERE STILL UP AT 3 A.M., SO WE DECIDED TO GO OUT FOR A WALK.

I GRABBED THE SPRAY BOTTLE SHE USED ON HER PLANTS...



...AND THAT'S FOR STEALING MY T-SHIRTS!



THAT FEELS GOOD...



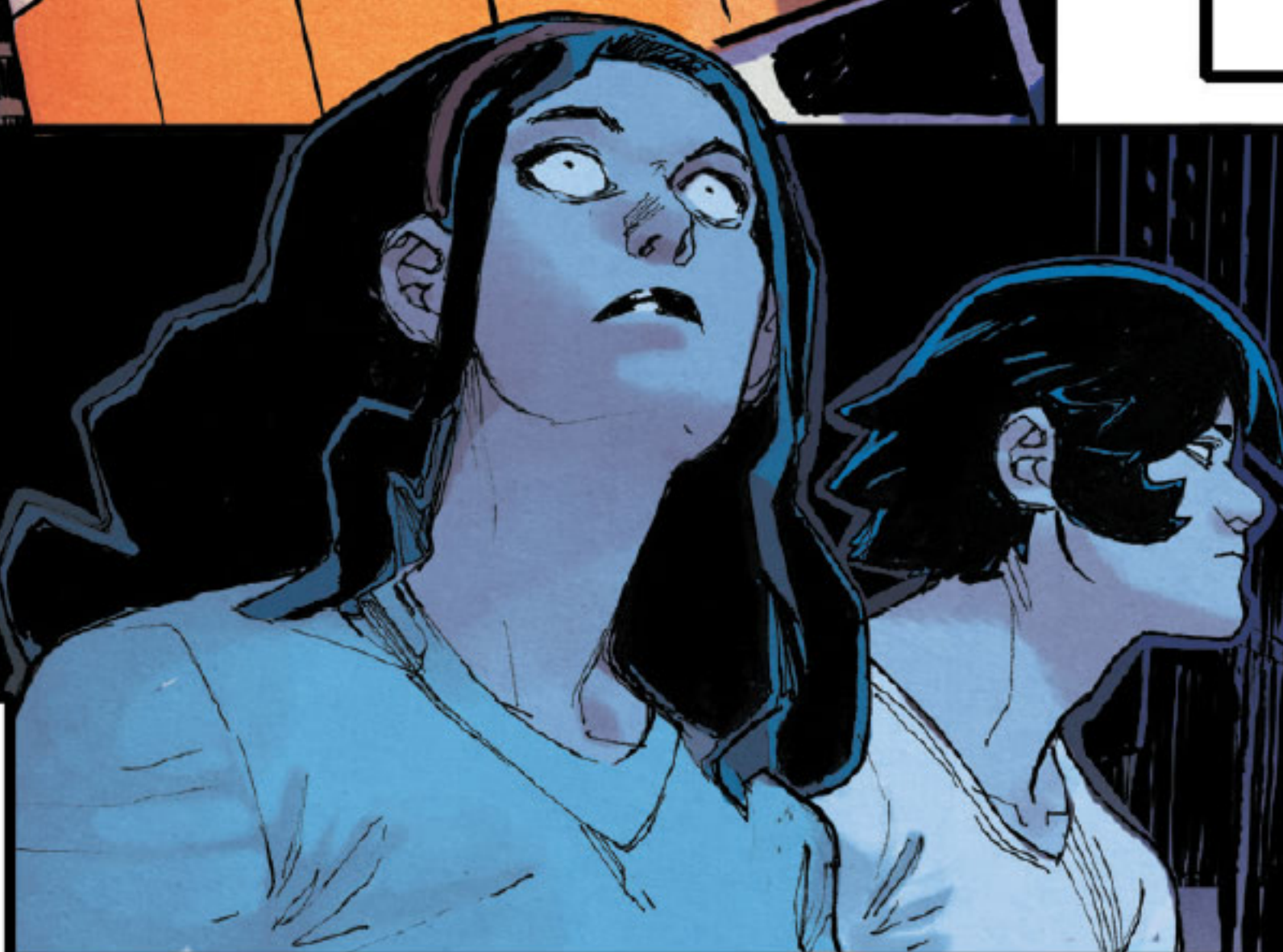
THAT'S WHEN THE SILENCE GREW HEAVY.

?!



A VOID THAT
ALMOST HURT
OUR EARS.

A STRANGE,
TOTAL ABSENCE
OF SOUND.



WHAT
THE...?!

DO
YOU HEAR
THAT?

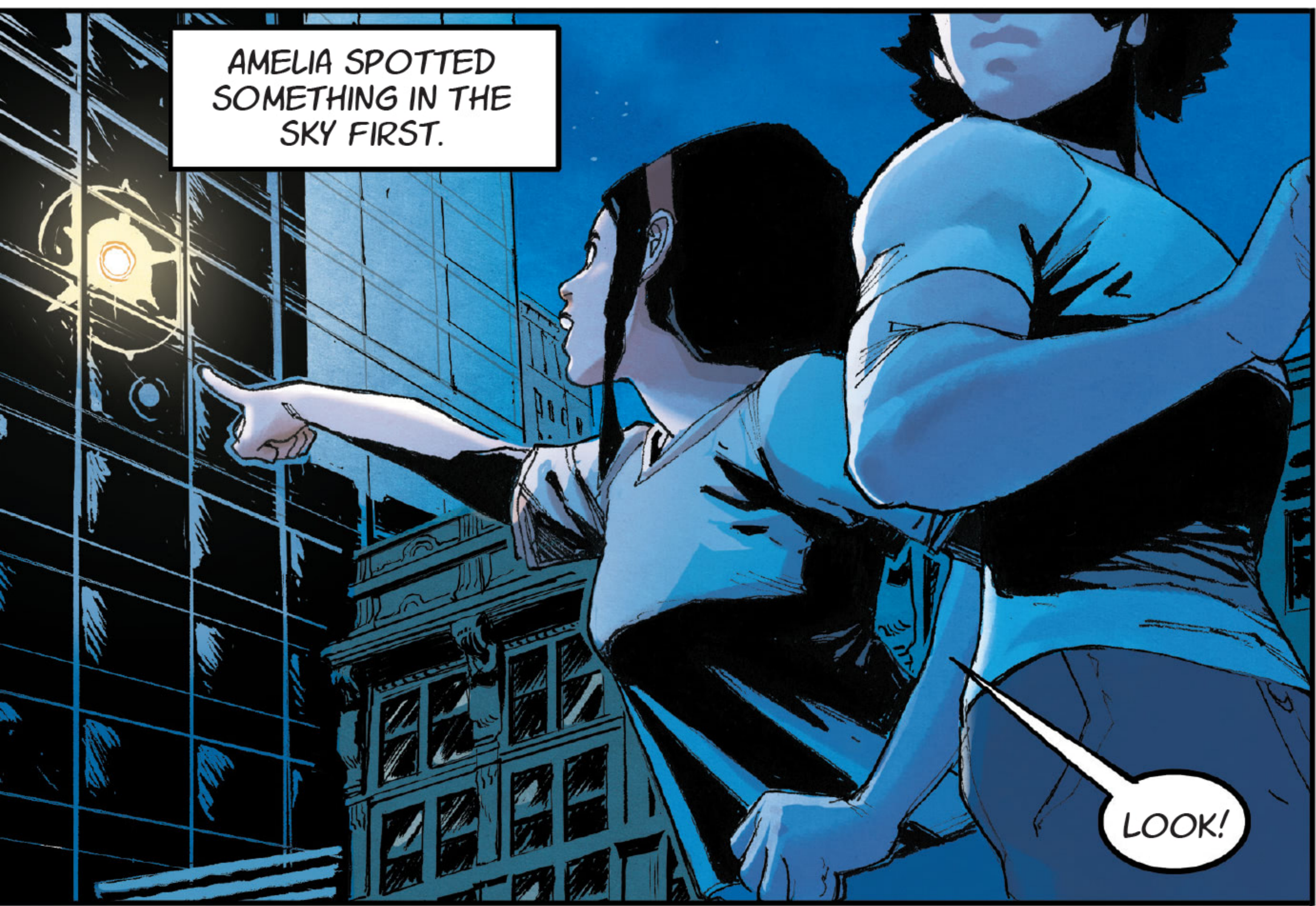


NO...

THINK
IT'S A POWER
OUTAGE?



CAUSING THE
SILENCE?
IMPOSSIBLE.



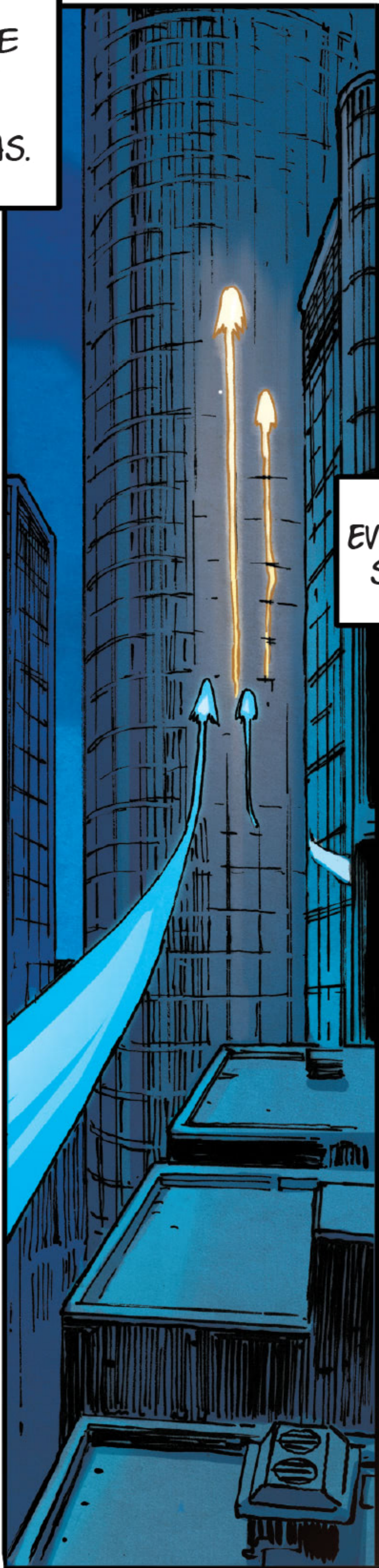
AMELIA SPOTTED
SOMETHING IN THE
SKY FIRST.

LOOK!

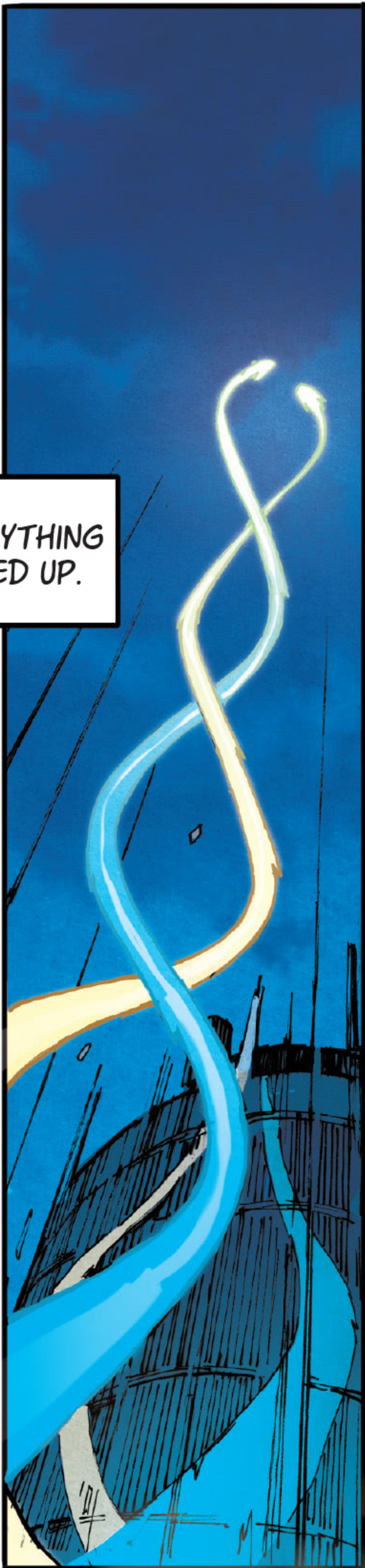


WHAT...

AND THEN IT WAS LIKE
WHOEVER SLOWED
EVERYTHING DOWN
STOMPED ON THE GAS.



EVERYTHING
SPED UP.



ALL WE
COULD DO
WAS WATCH.



DESPITE OUR
POWERS.



An aerial, high-angle view of a city at night, depicted in a comic book style. A massive, swirling vortex of green and yellow energy dominates the upper half of the frame, descending towards the city. The city below is shown in shades of blue and black, with several buildings illuminated by bright yellow and orange explosions and fires. In the center, a large, multi-story building is being crushed or destroyed by the descending energy. To the right, a cluster of tall, cylindrical skyscrapers is also being impacted. The overall scene conveys a sense of overwhelming power and destruction.

WE CAN'T FIGHT WHAT WE
DON'T UNDERSTAND.

WE MAINLY
FOCUSED ON
STAYING ALIVE.

BUT THAT
WASN'T
EASY.

I'LL ADMIT, I WAS
TOTALLY LOST.
CLUELESS.

I THINK I
STILL AM.

BUT... HOW DID YOU FIND ME?



THAT'S NOT THE QUESTION YOU WANT TO ASK.



OH YEAH?



YOU WANT TO KNOW IF I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU OR JUST FOUND YOU AT RANDOM.

AND?



I WENT LOOKING THROUGH THE CITY RUINS FOR YOU AND YOUR UNIQUE POWER...

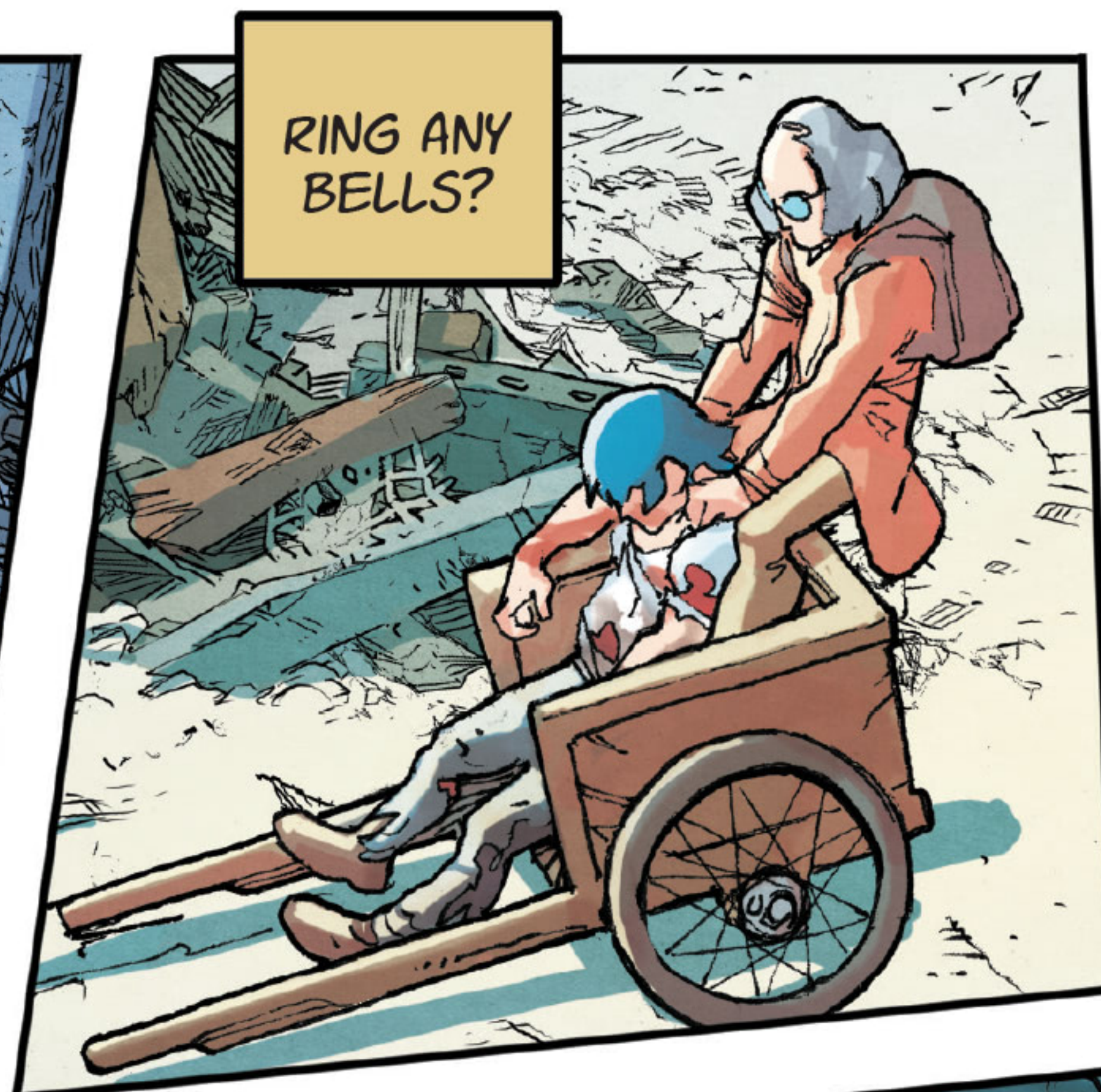
...BECAUSE YOU'RE PART OF DIZHI HISTORY.



YOU KNOW? BUT... WHO ARE YOU?



I'M THE ARCHIVIST.



RING ANY BELLS?



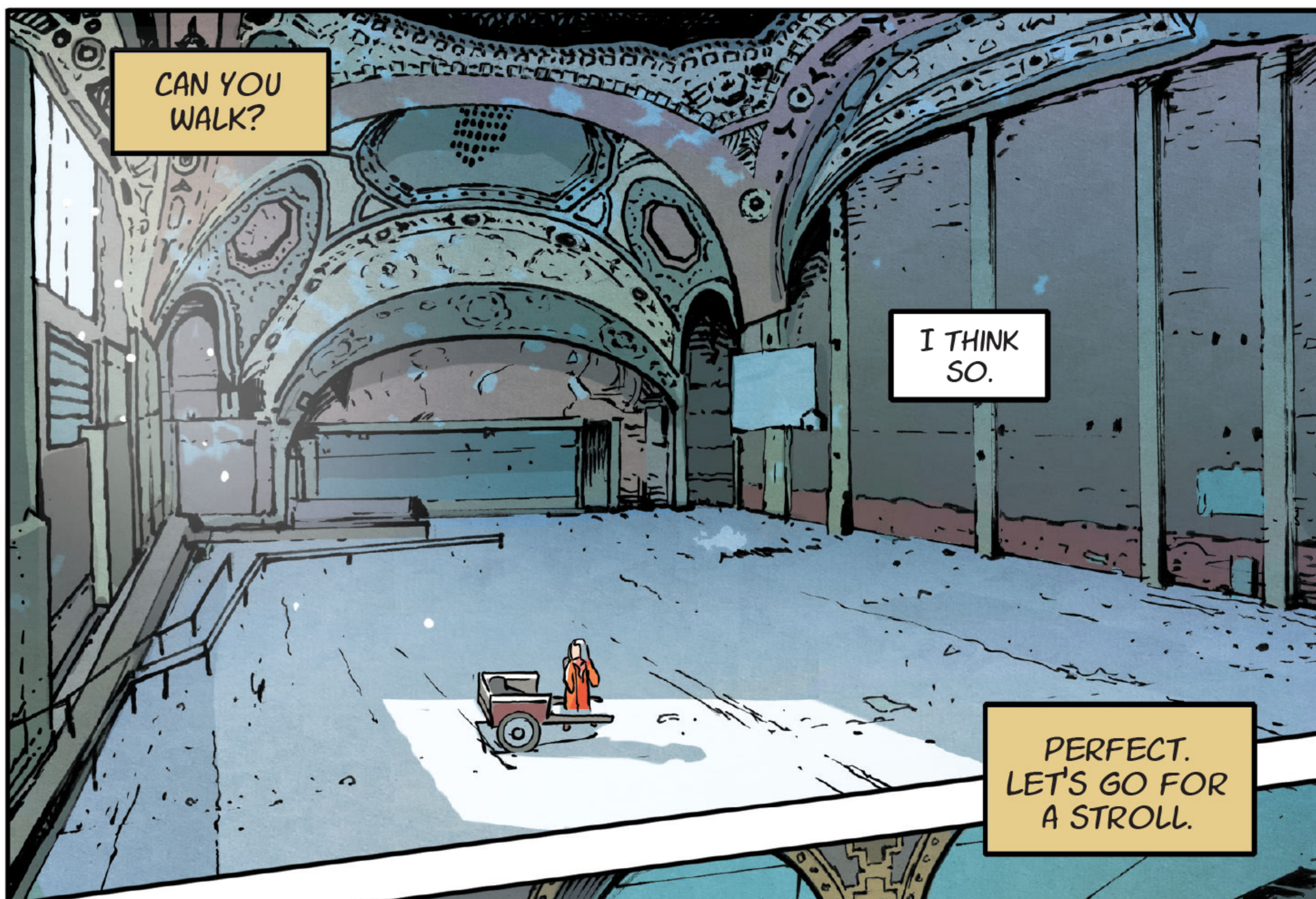
NOPE. SORRY.



IT'S BECAUSE OF ME THAT YOU... HMM... NEVERMIND. WE'LL DISCUSS IT LATER.



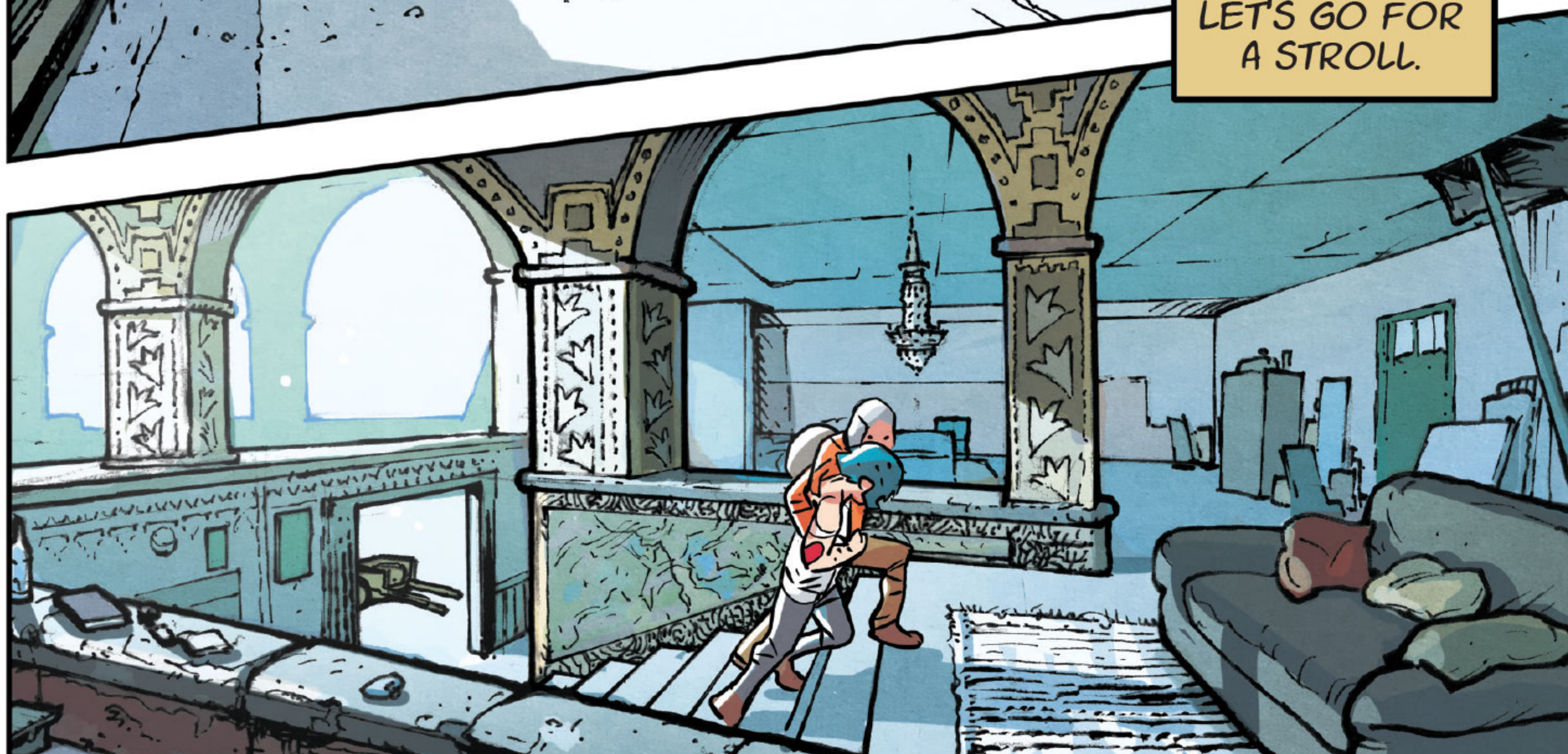
I NEED TO START FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.



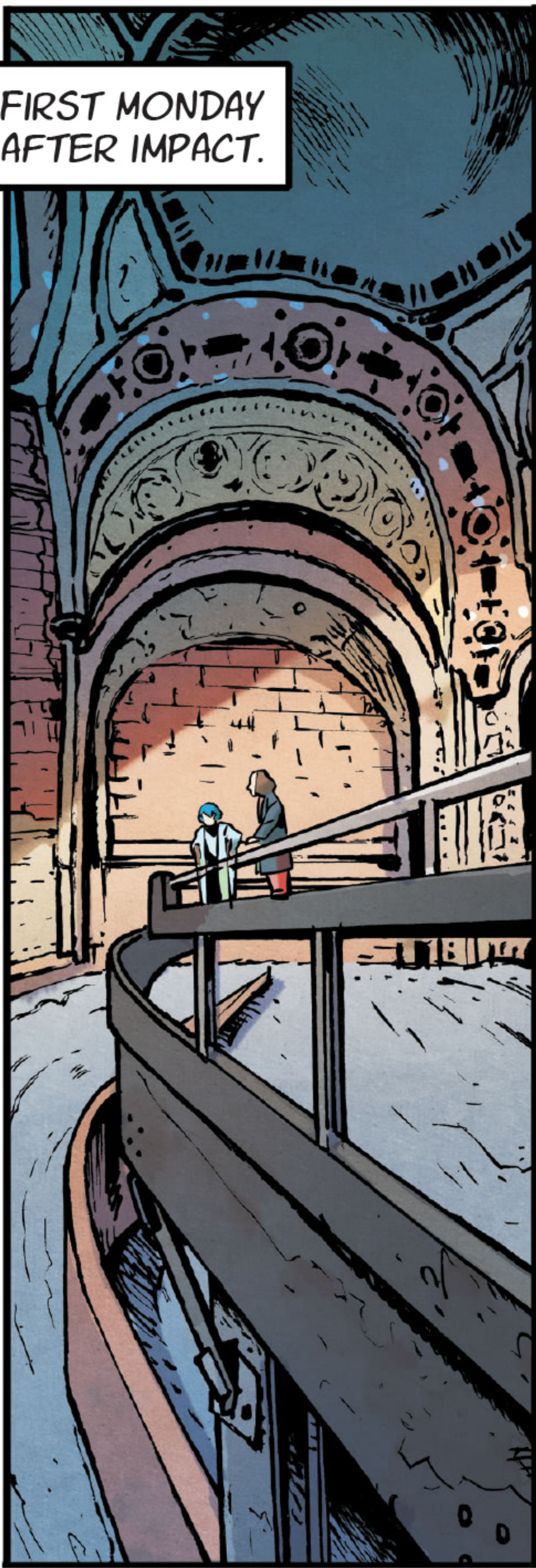
CAN YOU WALK?

I THINK SO.

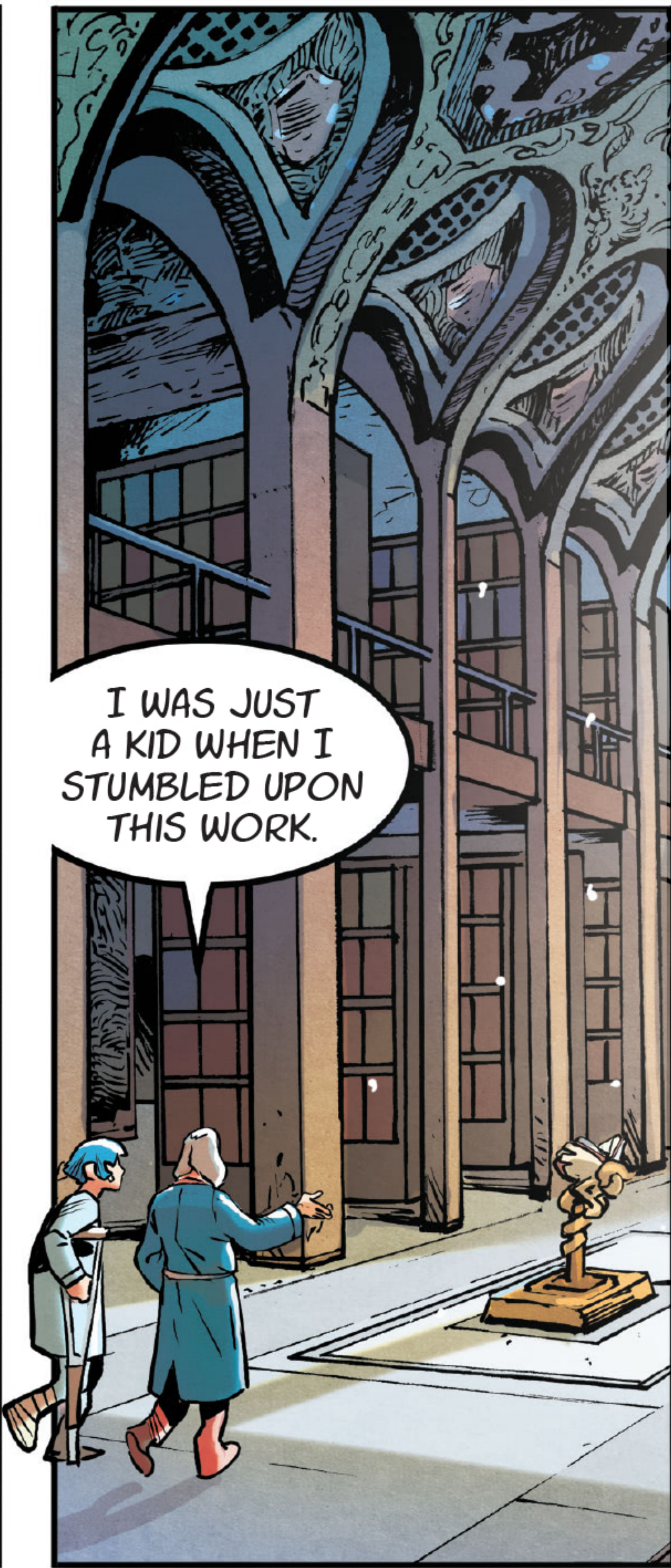
PERFECT. LET'S GO FOR A STROLL.



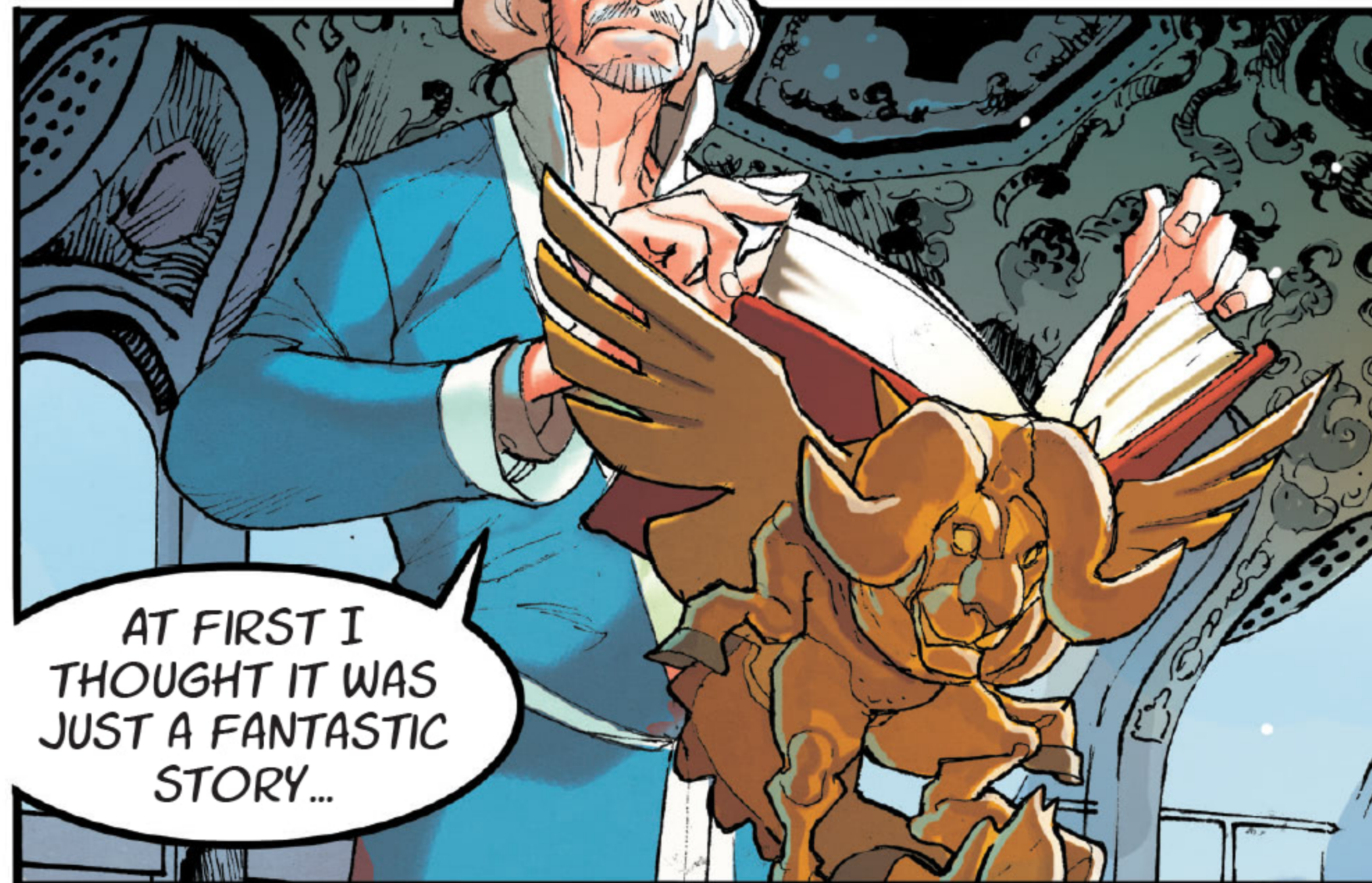
FIRST MONDAY
AFTER IMPACT.



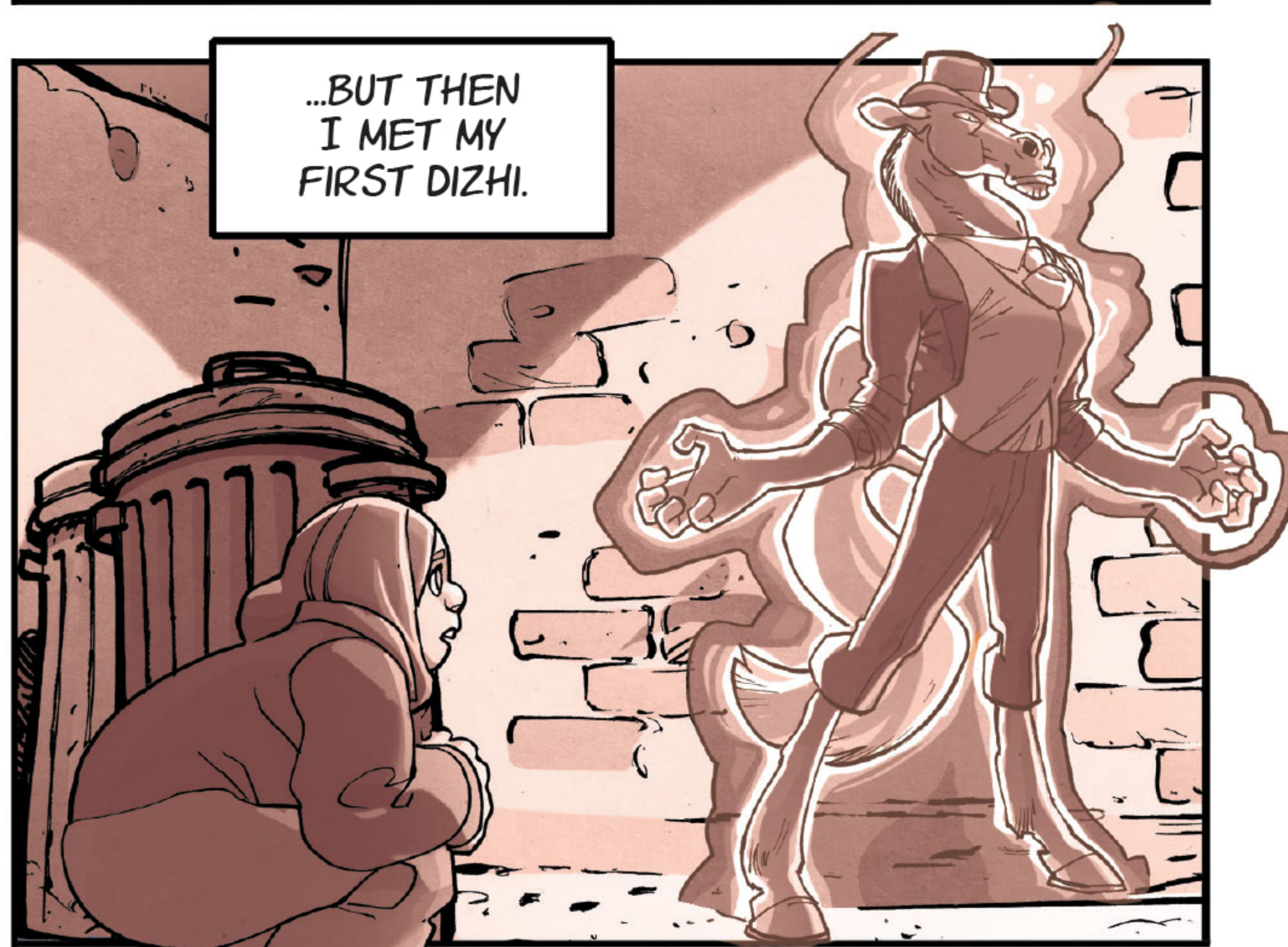
I WAS JUST
A KID WHEN I
STUMBLED UPON
THIS WORK.



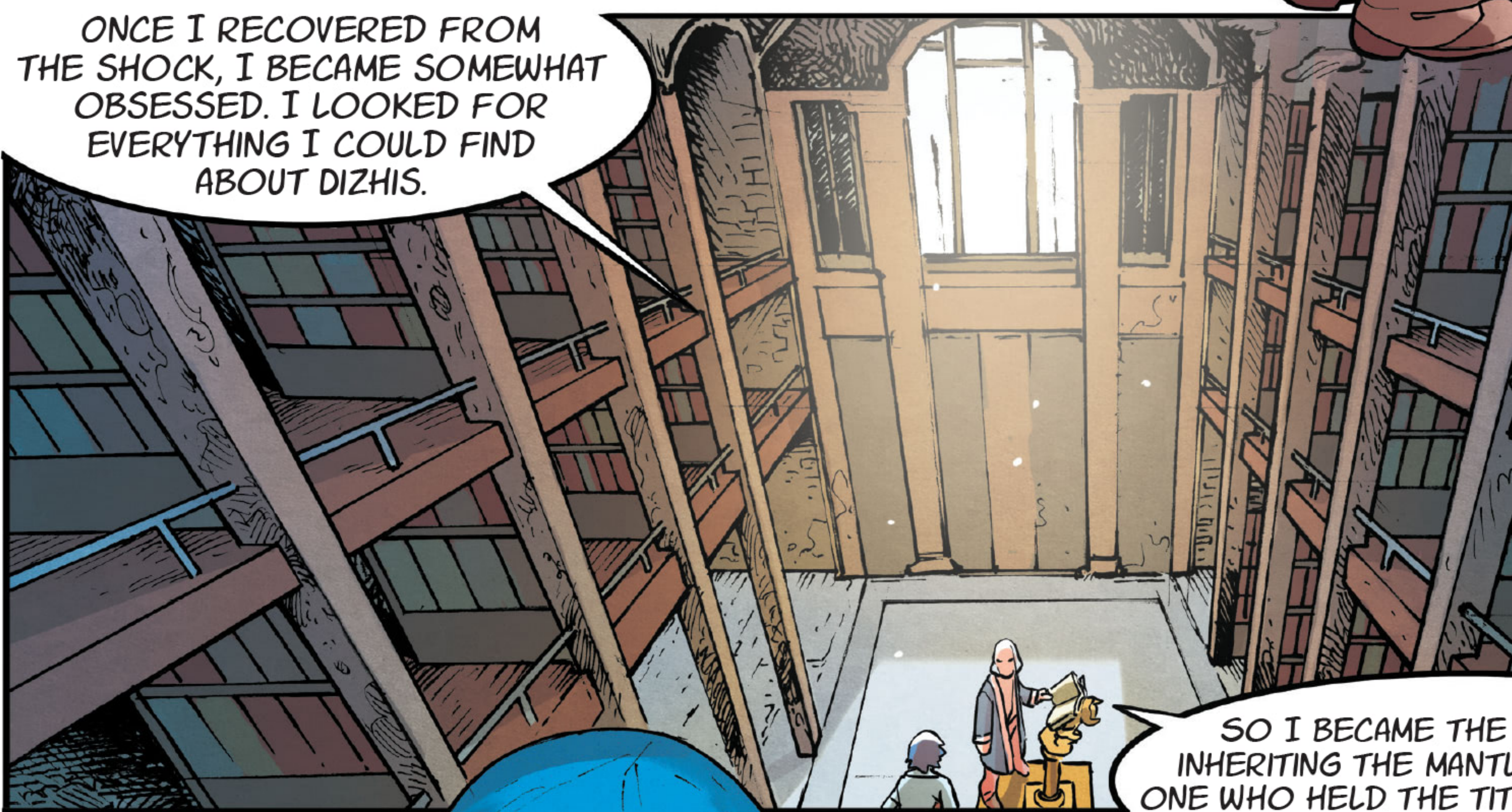
AT FIRST I
THOUGHT IT WAS
JUST A FANTASTIC
STORY...



...BUT THEN
I MET MY
FIRST DIZHI.



ONCE I RECOVERED FROM
THE SHOCK, I BECAME SOMEWHAT
OBSESSED. I LOOKED FOR
EVERYTHING I COULD FIND
ABOUT DIZHIS.



SO I BECAME THE ARCHIVIST,
INHERITING THE MANTLE FROM THE
ONE WHO HELD THE TITLE BEFORE ME.



ALL THESE
BOOKS ARE ABOUT
DIZHIS?

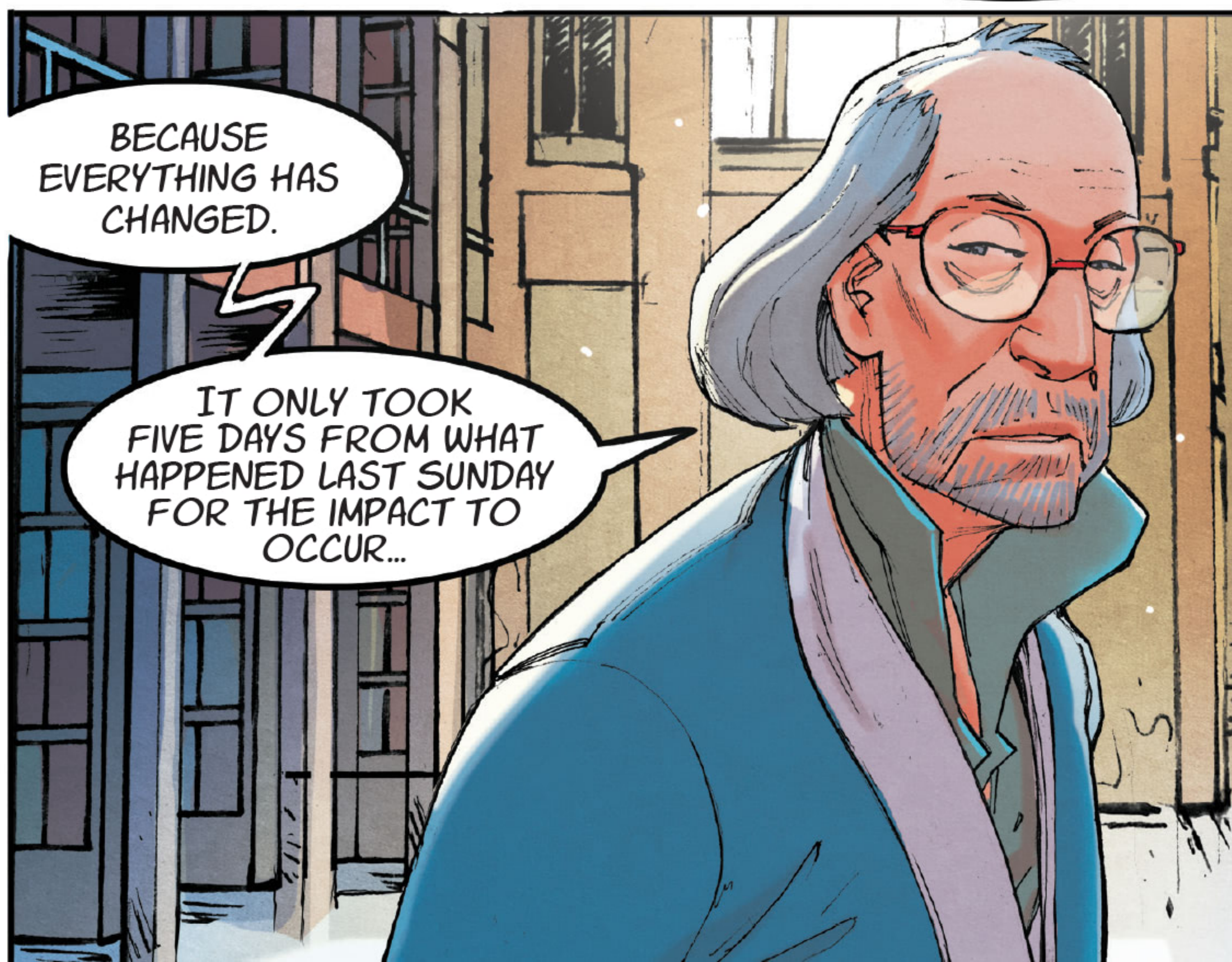
TO SOME
DEGREE,
YES.



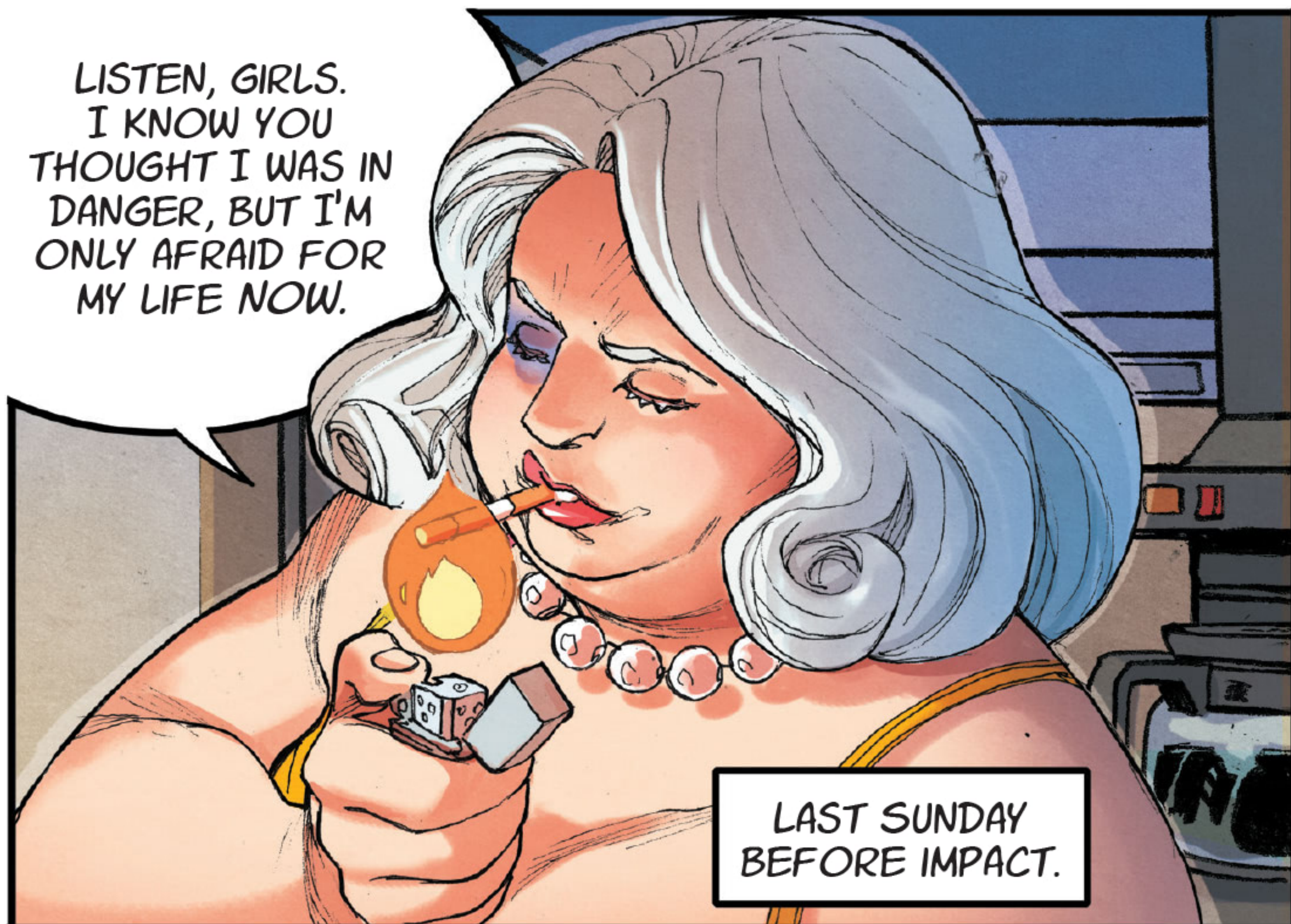
OKAY, BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND --
APPARENTLY, NONE OF THE DIZHIS KNOW YOU.
WHY'D YOU DECIDE TO CONTACT ME?

BECAUSE
EVERYTHING HAS
CHANGED.

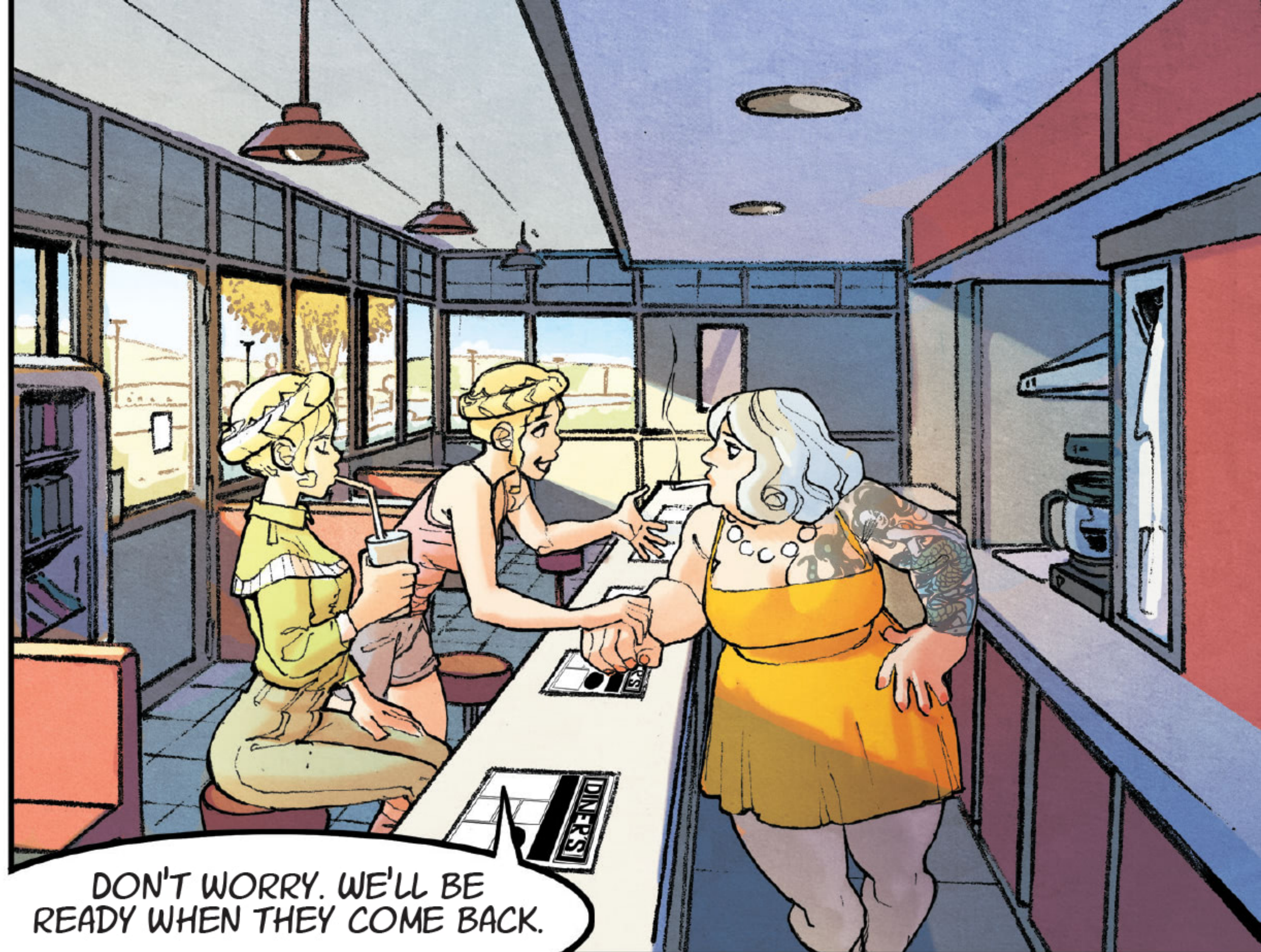
IT ONLY TOOK
FIVE DAYS FROM WHAT
HAPPENED LAST SUNDAY
FOR THE IMPACT TO
OCCUR...



LISTEN, GIRLS.
I KNOW YOU
THOUGHT I WAS IN
DANGER, BUT I'M
ONLY AFRAID FOR
MY LIFE NOW.

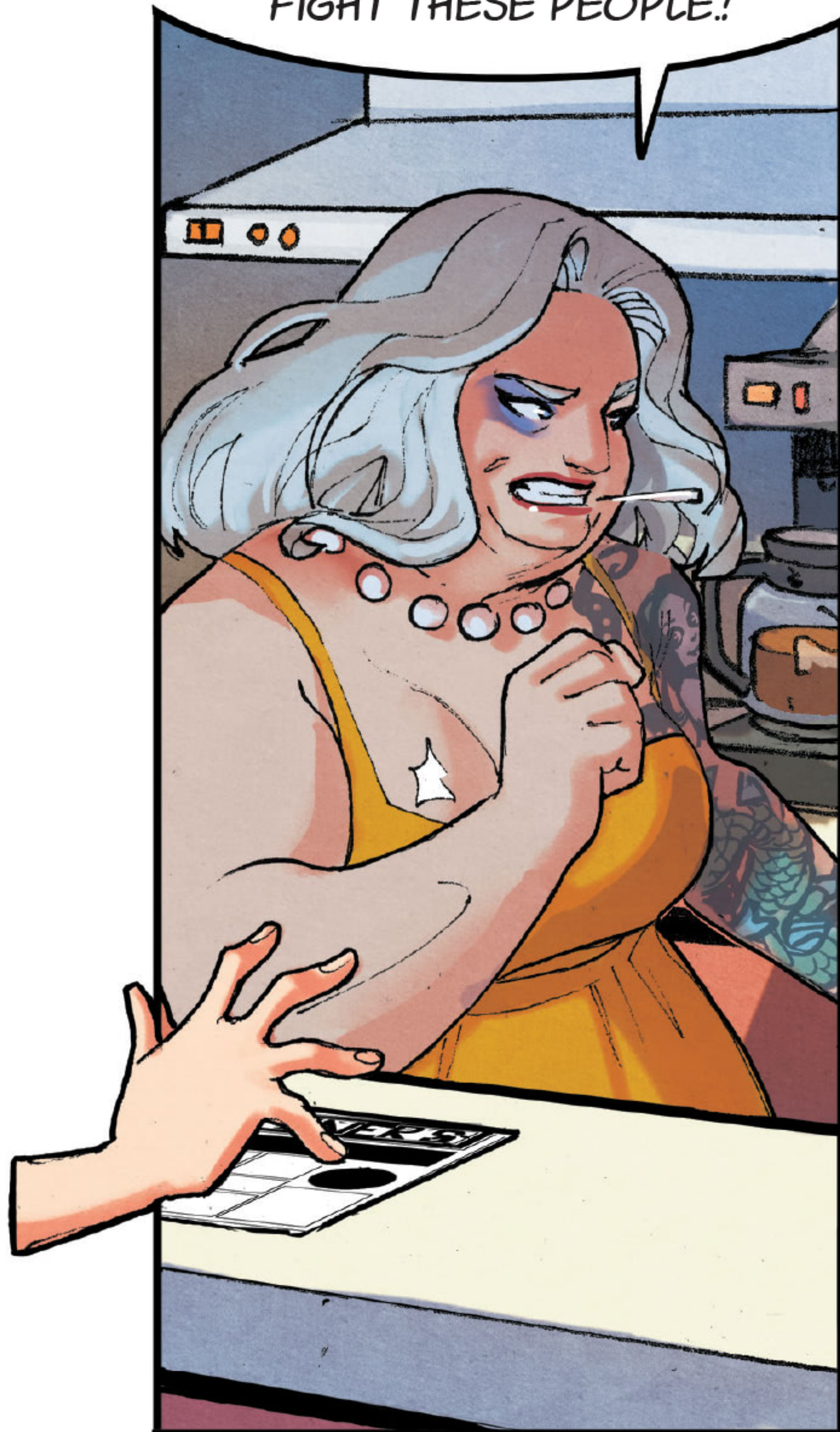


LAST SUNDAY
BEFORE IMPACT.

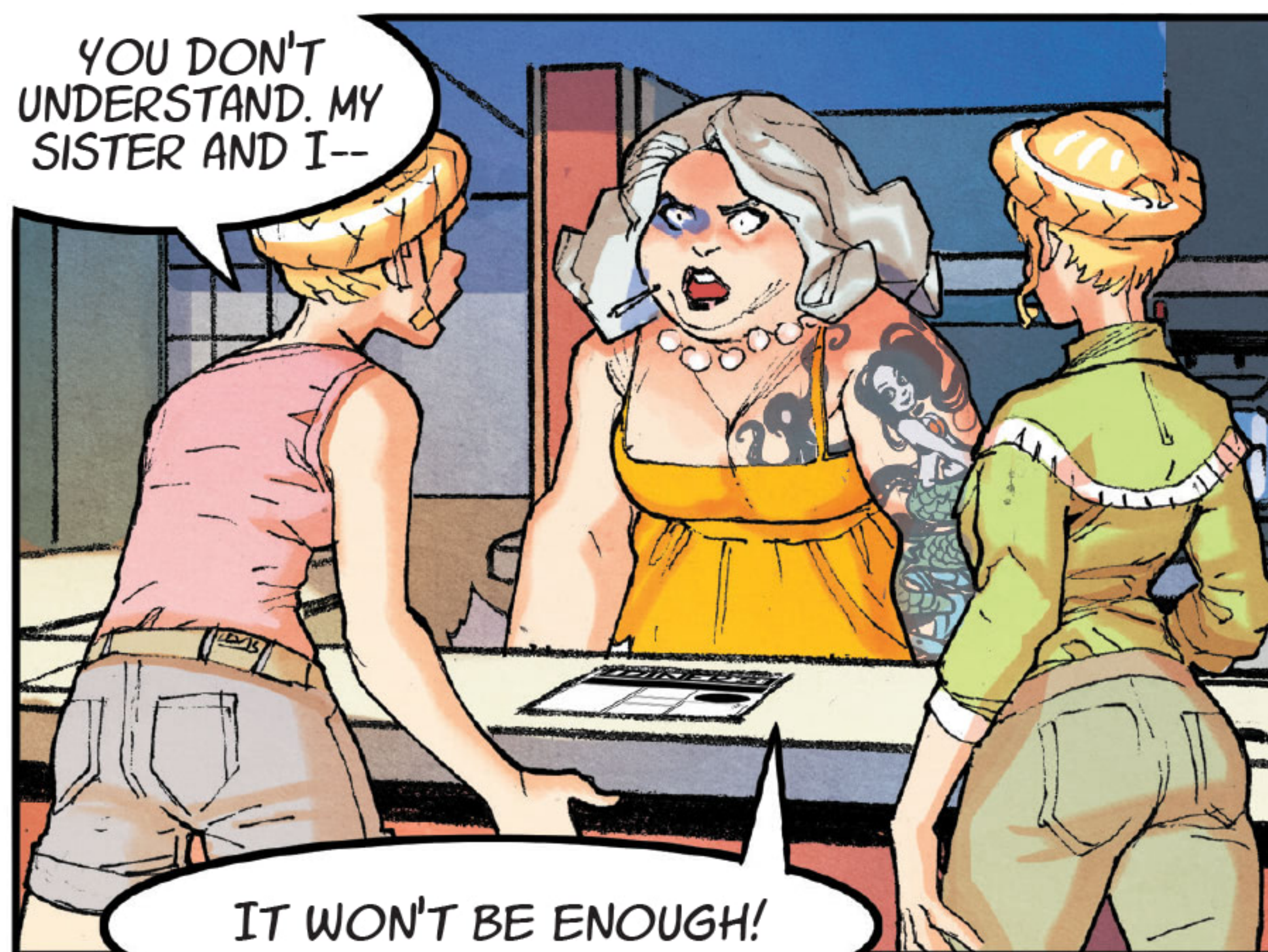


DON'T WORRY. WE'LL BE
READY WHEN THEY COME BACK.

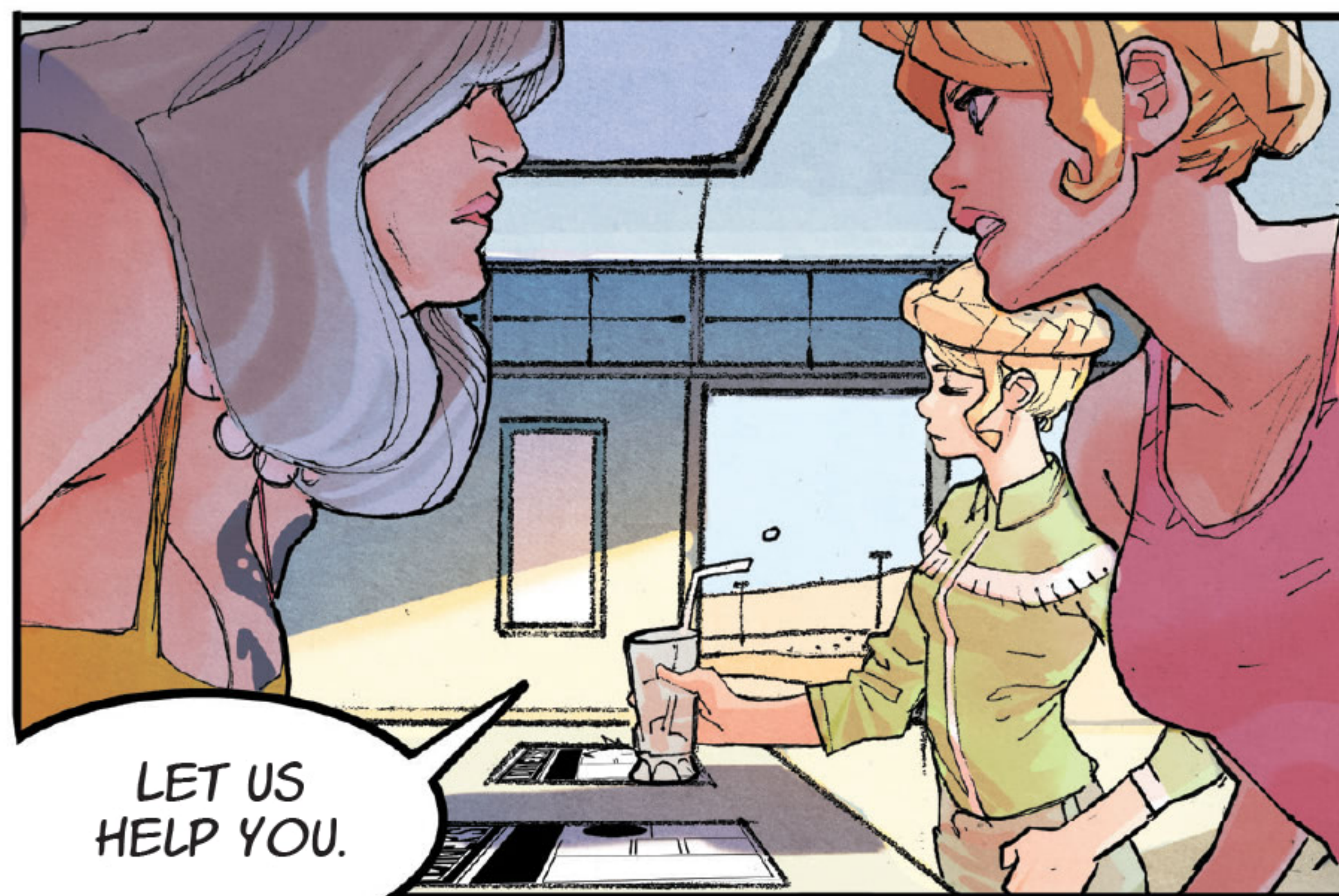
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND,
KID! IT DON'T MATTER HOW
TALENTED YOU ARE, YOU CAN'T
FIGHT THESE PEOPLE!



YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND. MY
SISTER AND I--

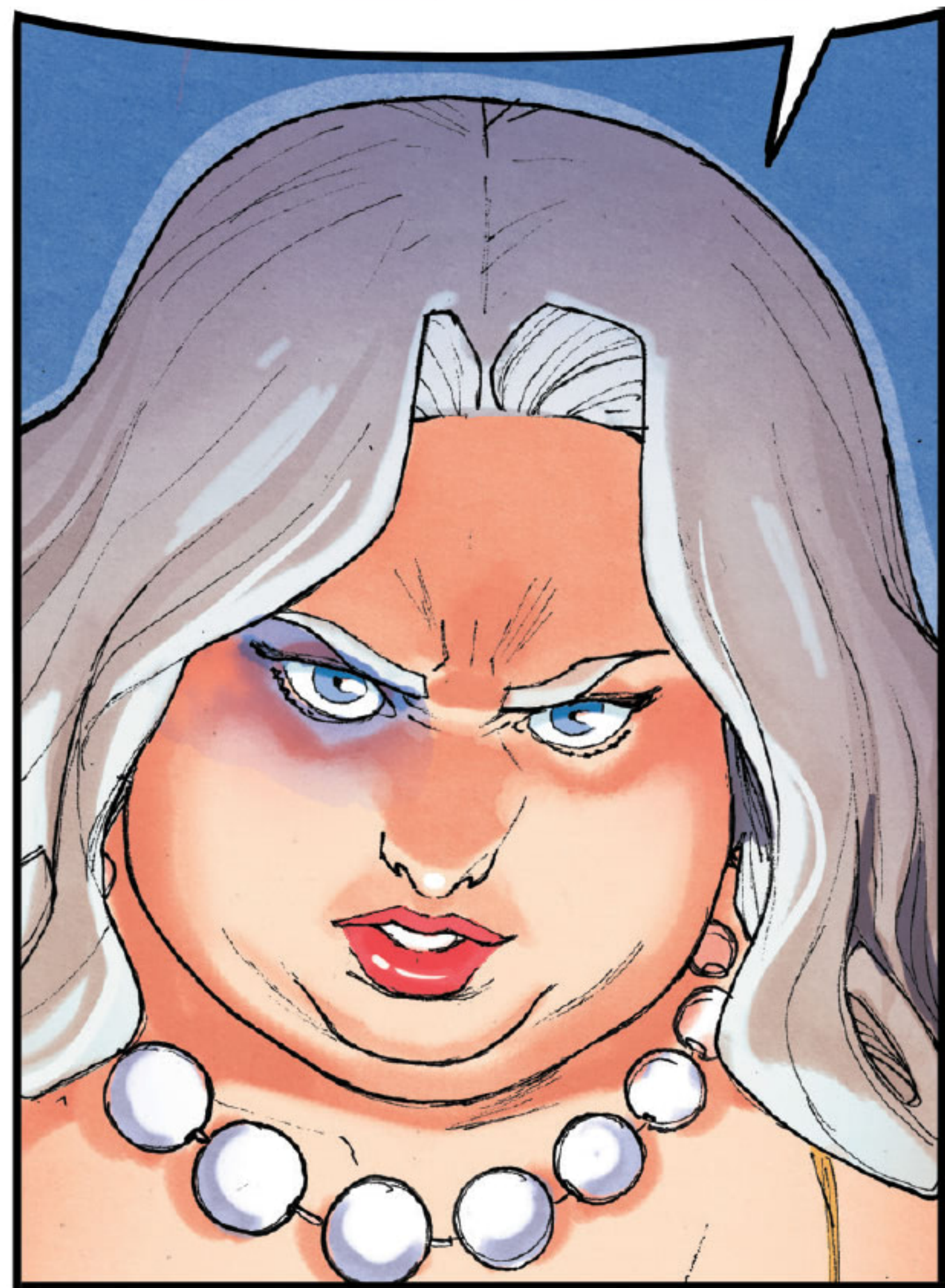


IT WON'T BE ENOUGH!

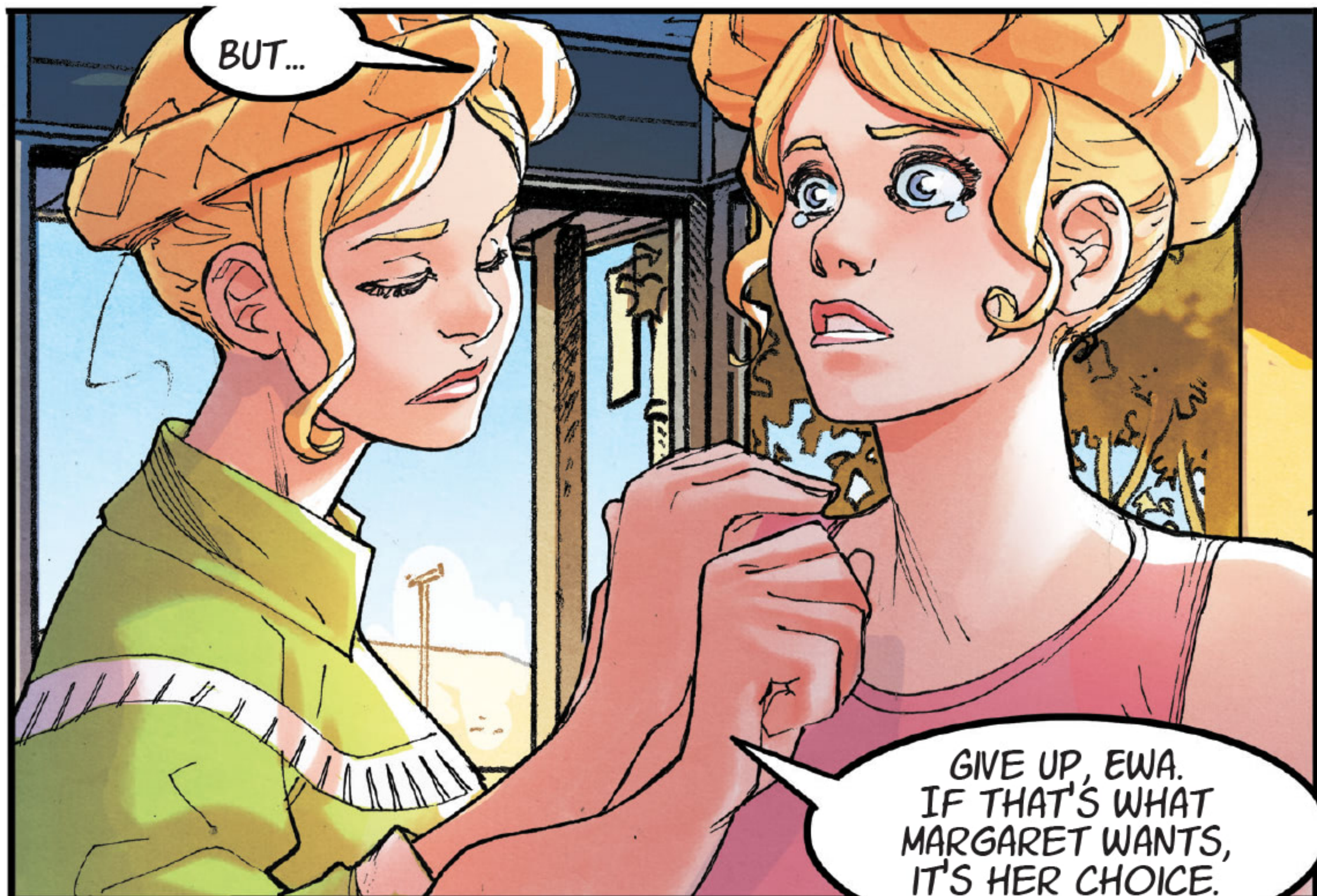


LET US
HELP YOU.

I DON'T THINK I'VE BEEN CLEAR.
I DON'T WANT YOUR HELP! WHAT
I WANT IS FOR YOU TO GET AS FAR
FROM HERE AS POSSIBLE!



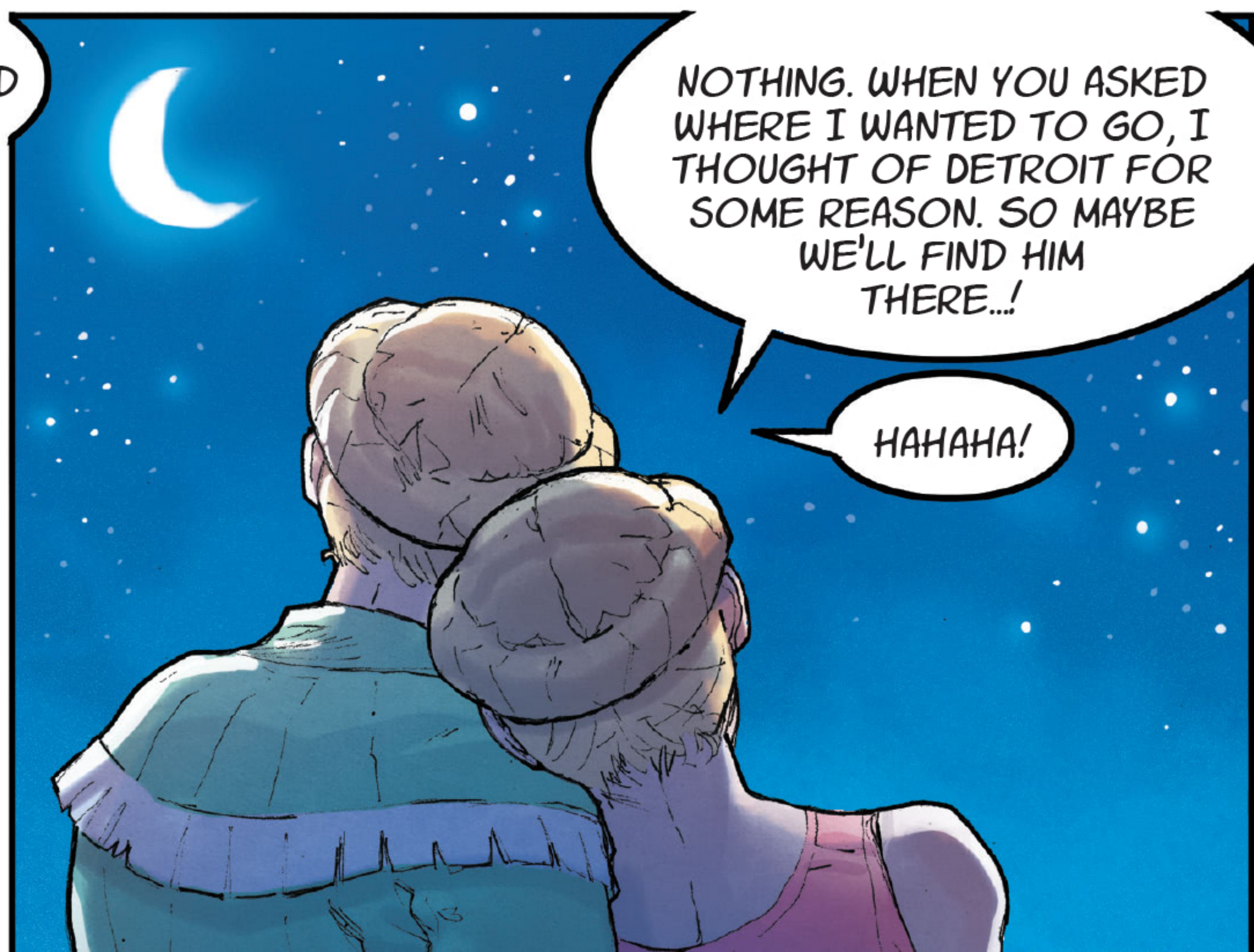
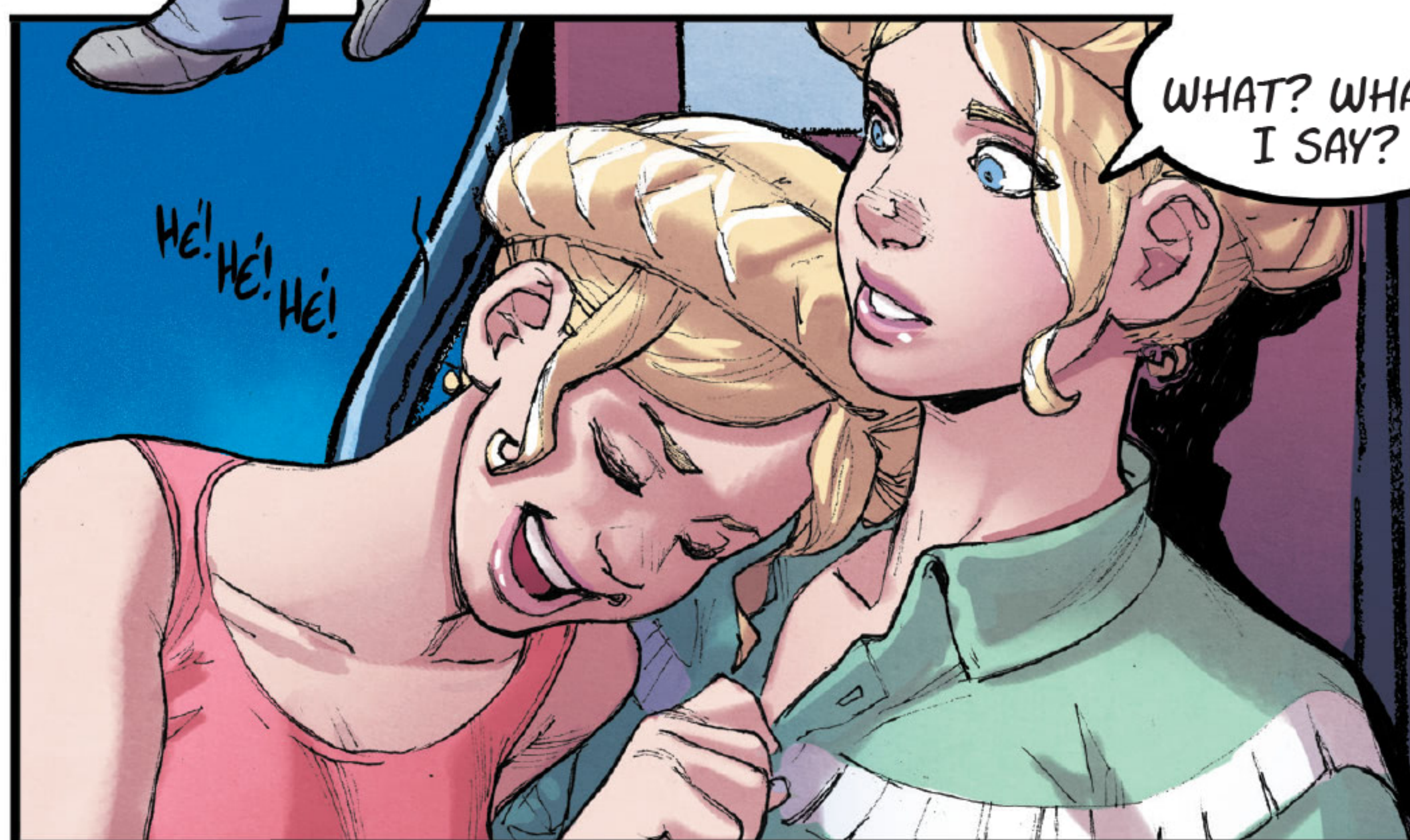
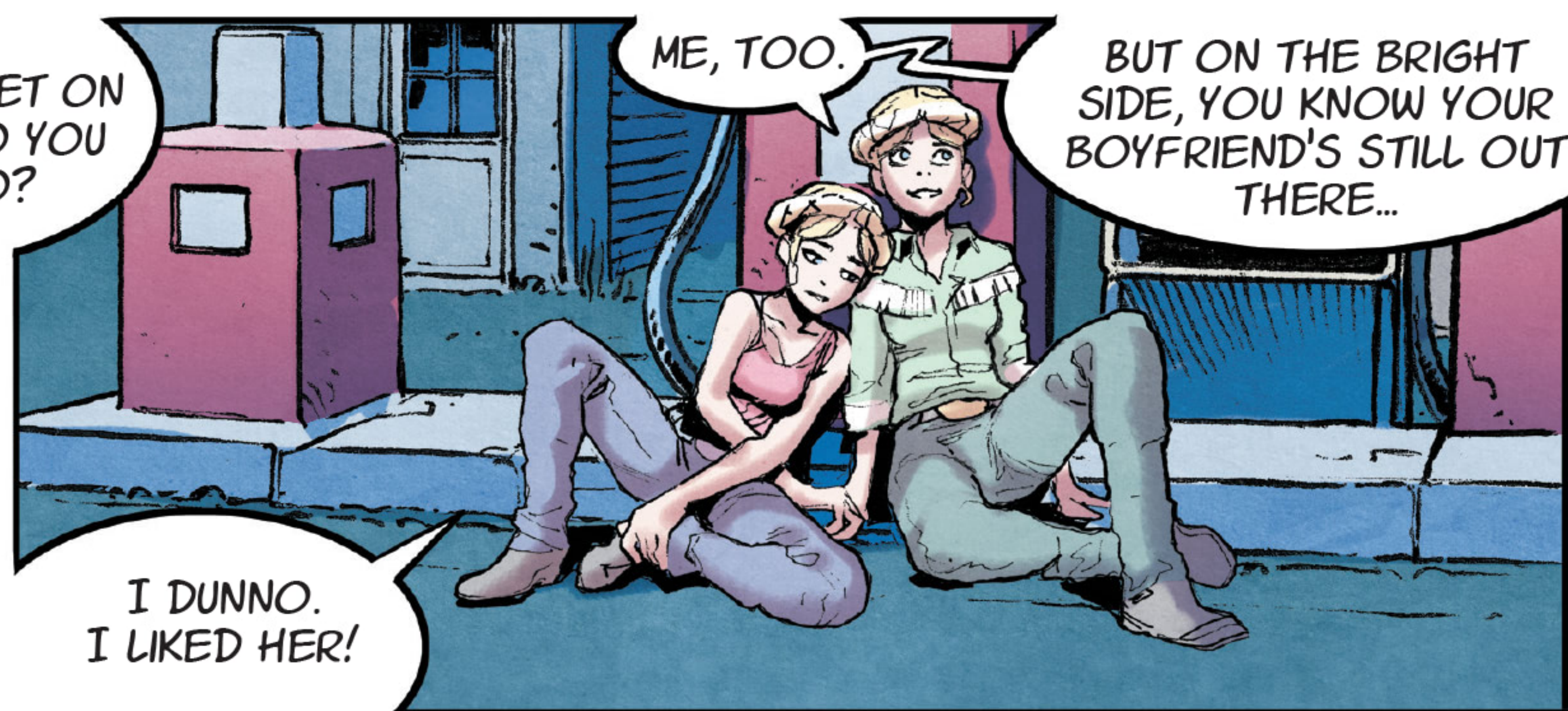
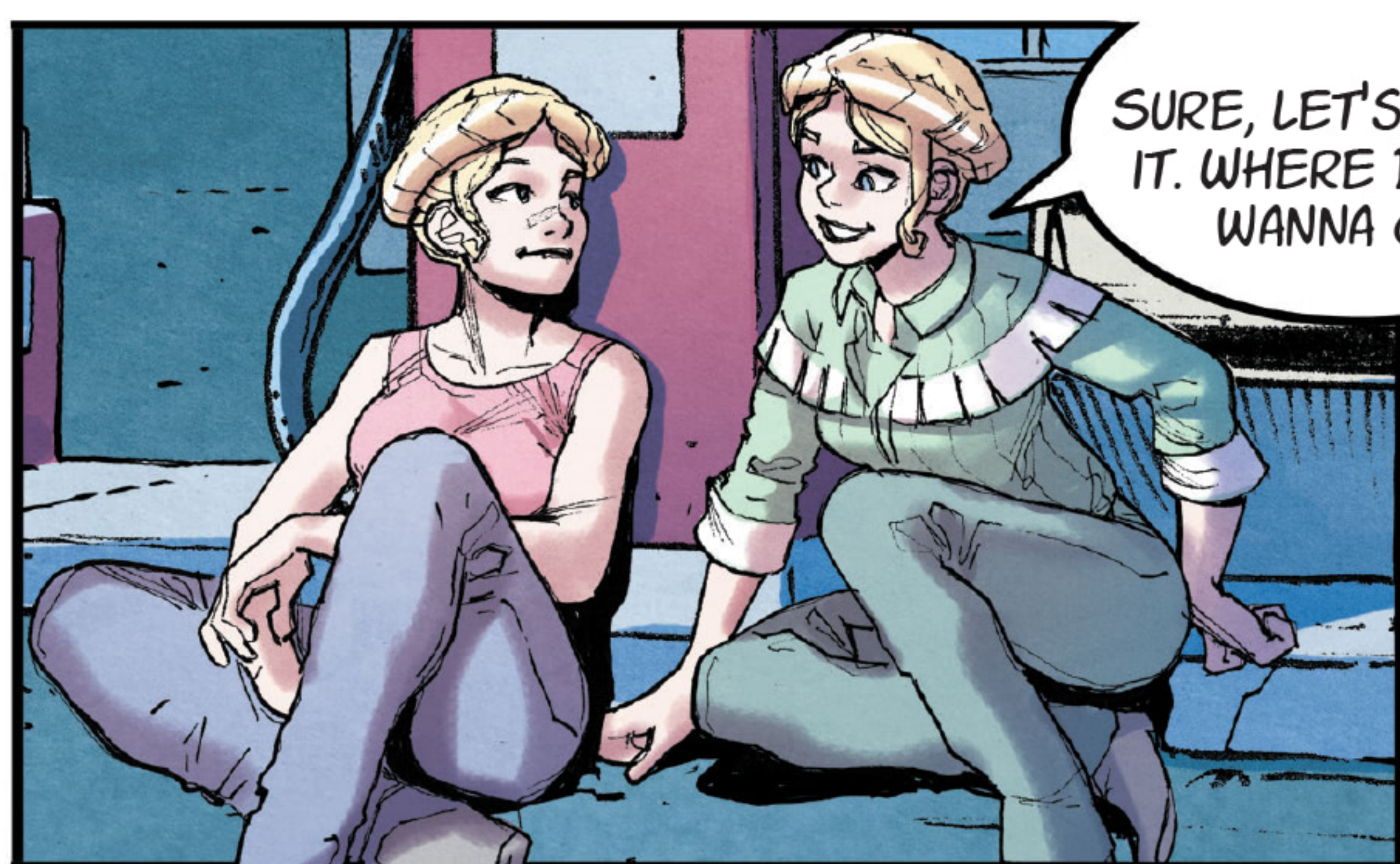
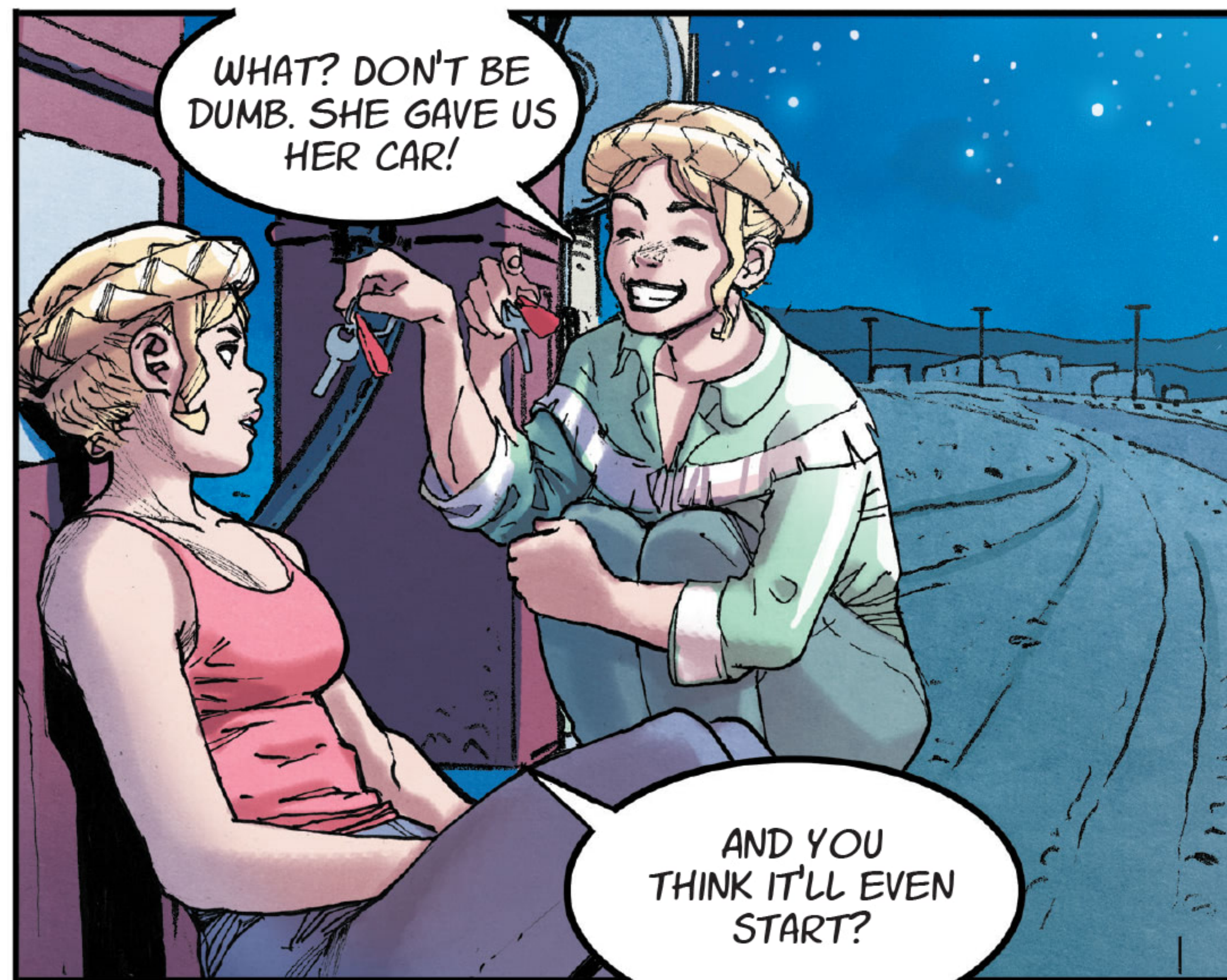
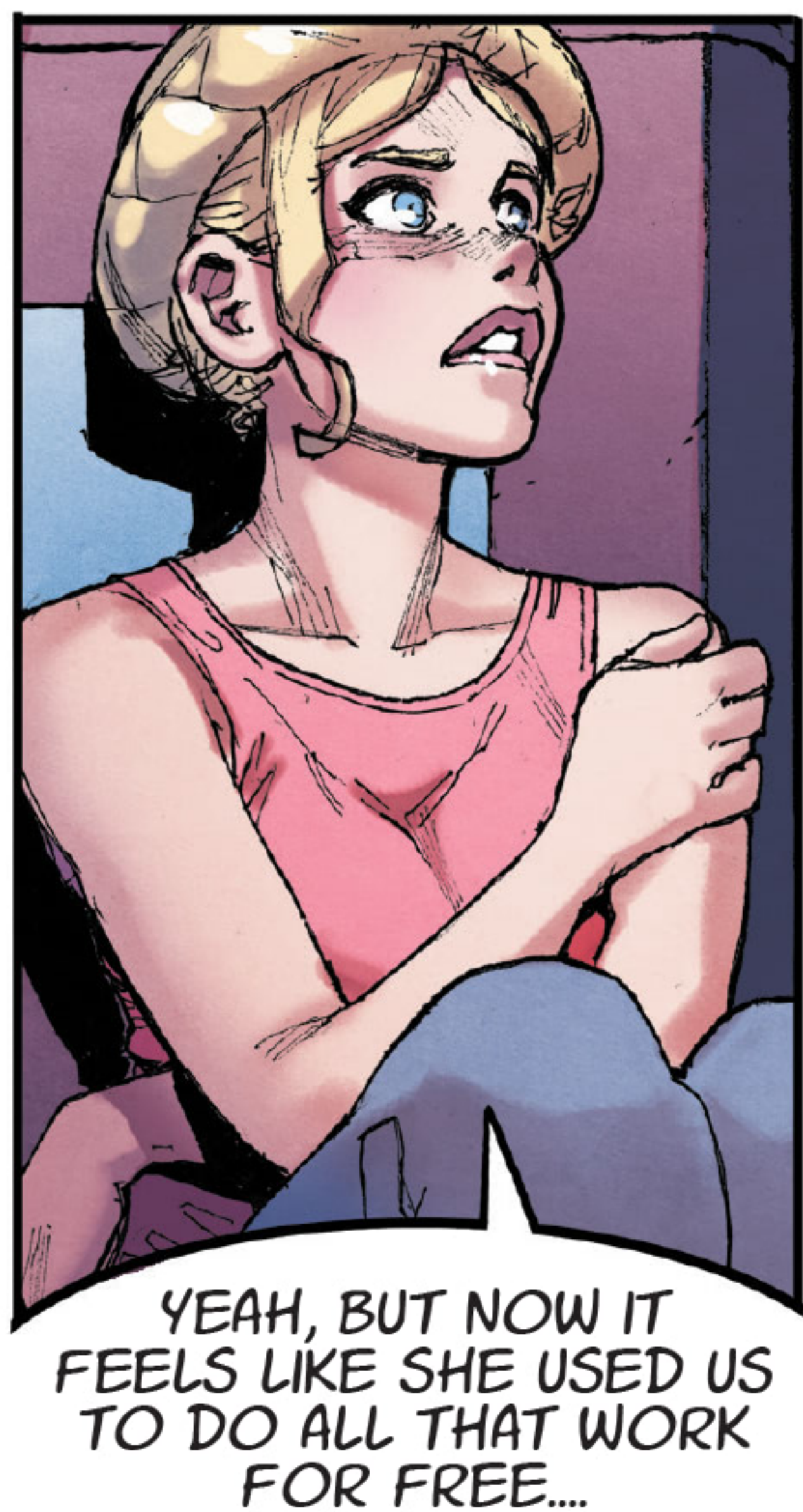
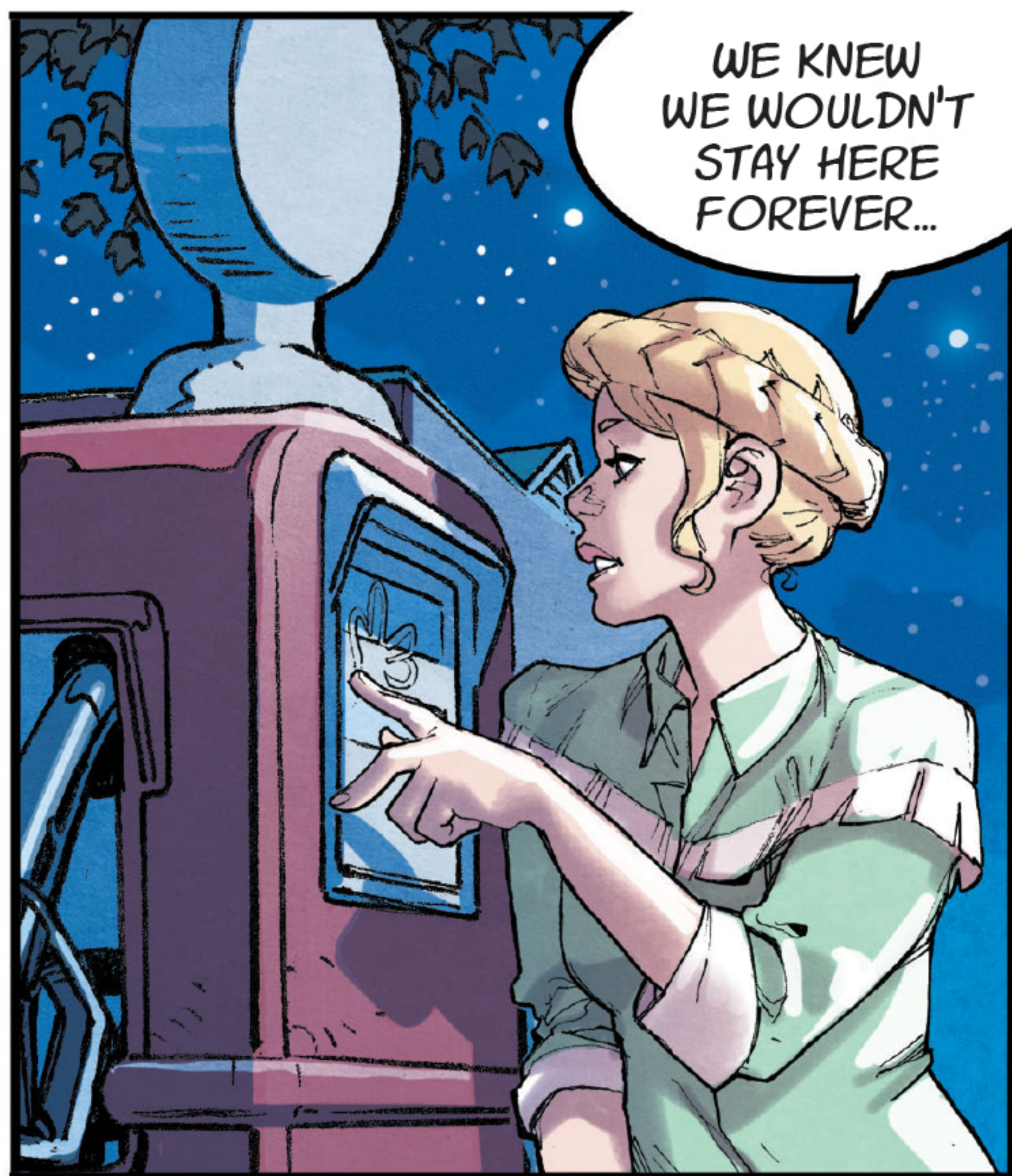
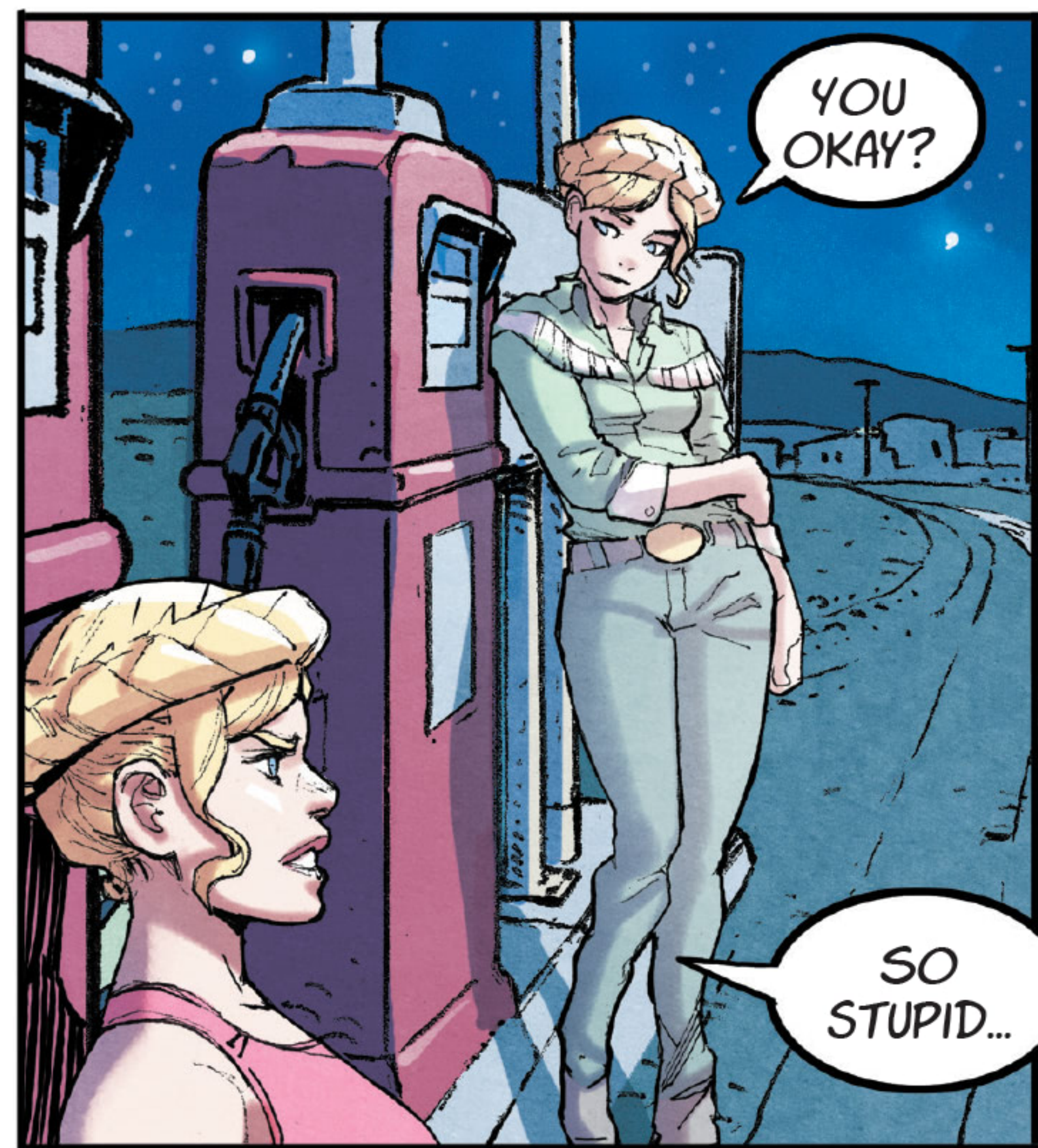
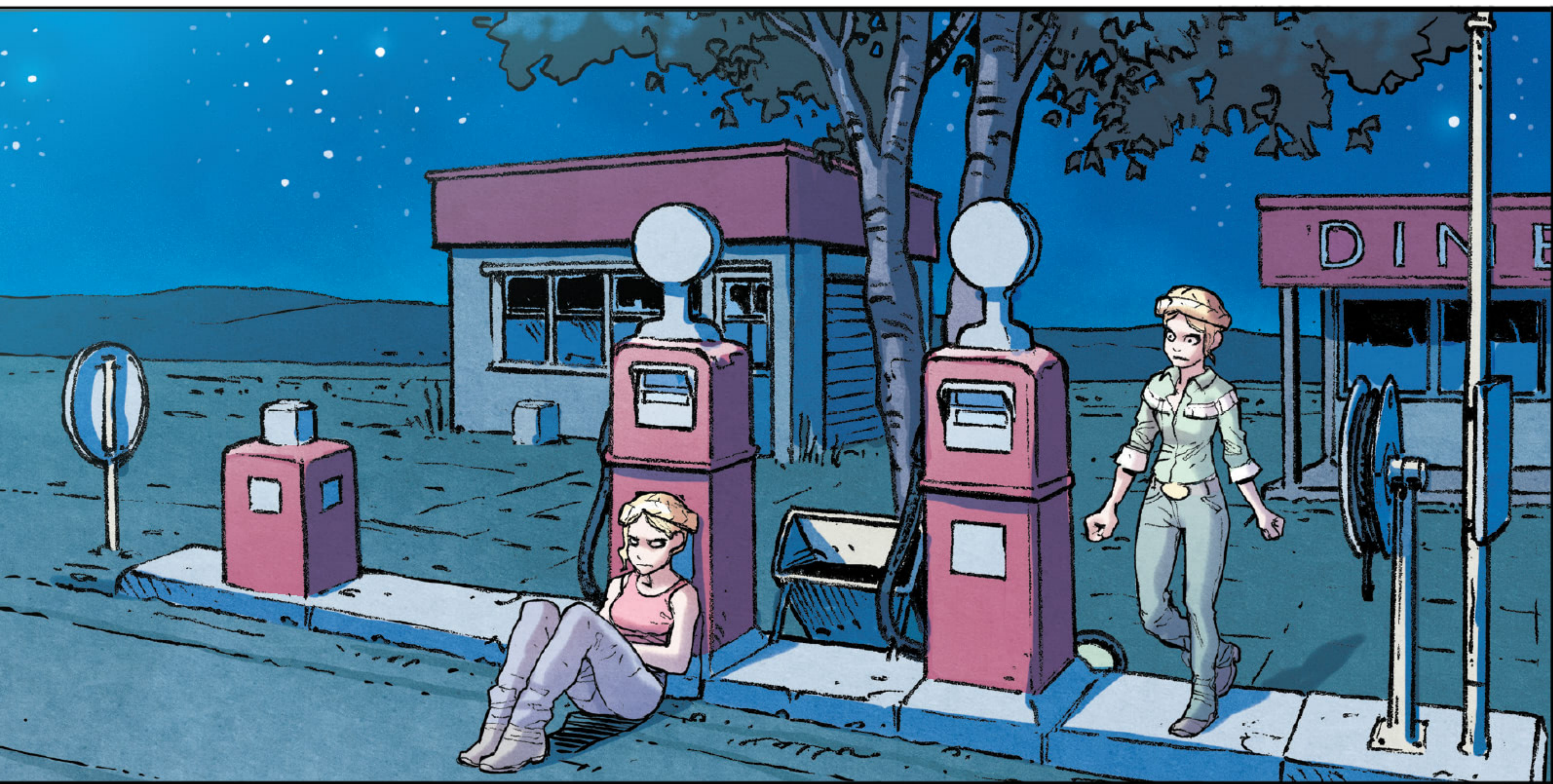
BUT...



GIVE UP, EWA.
IF THAT'S WHAT
MARGARET WANTS,
IT'S HER CHOICE.

FINE!
SHE CAN
GO TO
HELL!





THAT SAME DAY,
IN DETROIT.

HEY, YO!

THAT'S RIGHT,
PRETEND LIKE IT'S
NOTHING. YOU THINK
YOU GET A
PASS?

I... SORRY,
WHAT'S UP?

I THINK I GET IT.
THEY WANNA SHAKE
ME DOWN FOR
SOME CASH FOR
SQUATTING...

...BUT THEY DON'T
KNOW I'M THE TIGER...

THINK I
DIDN'T SEE
YOU?

SORRY?

SO LET'S
SEND THEM OFF
SCREAMING! I...
SOMETHING'S
WRONG. I CAN'T
CALL THE TIGER
TOTEM...

AND I BETTER
NOT SUMMON
THE HORSE OR
HE MIGHT RUN
AWAY TOO...

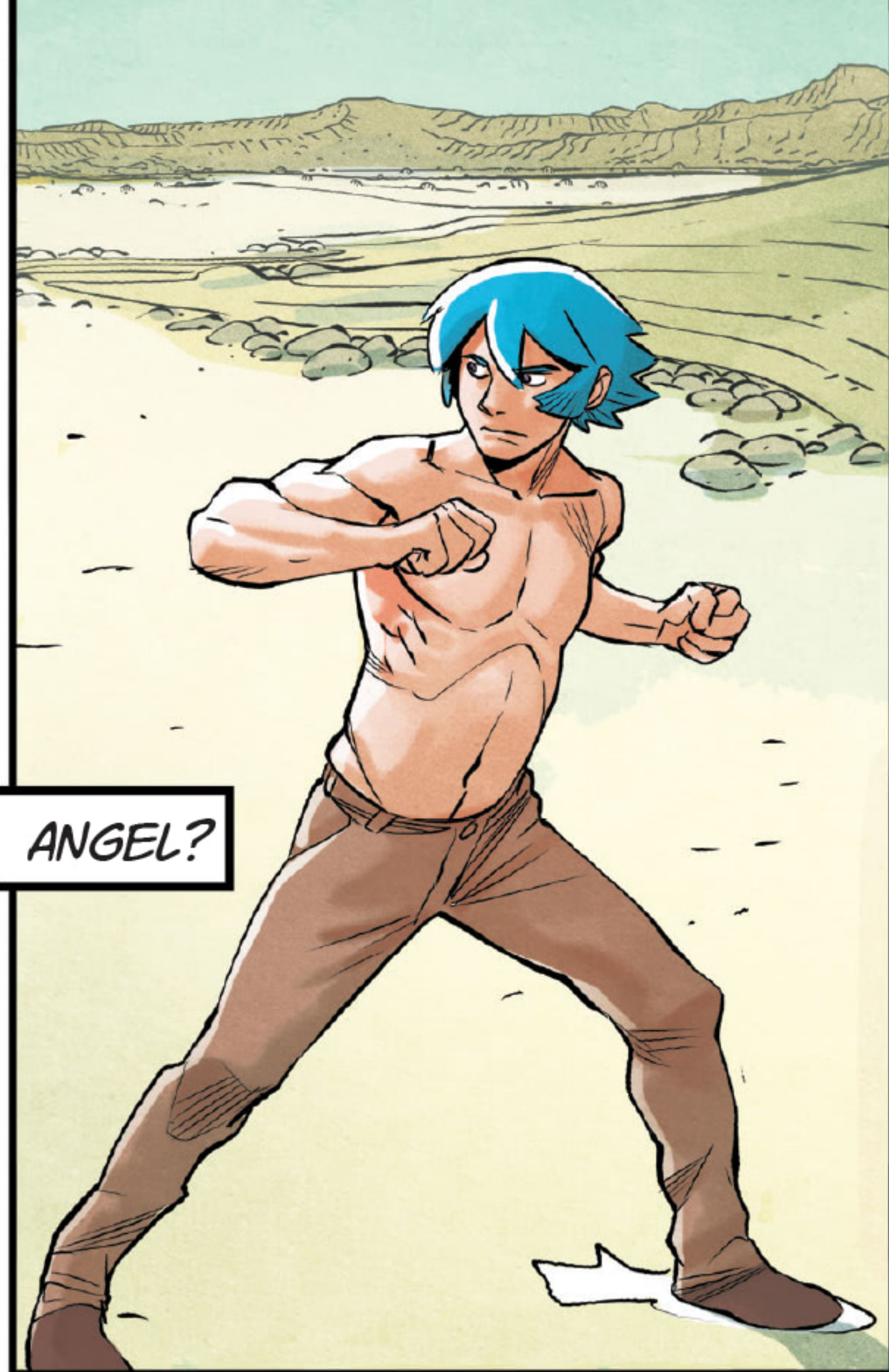
SORRY,
I-I DON'T WANT
ANY TROUBLE. I
DIDN'T KNOW...

BETTER KEEP A
LOW PROFILE.

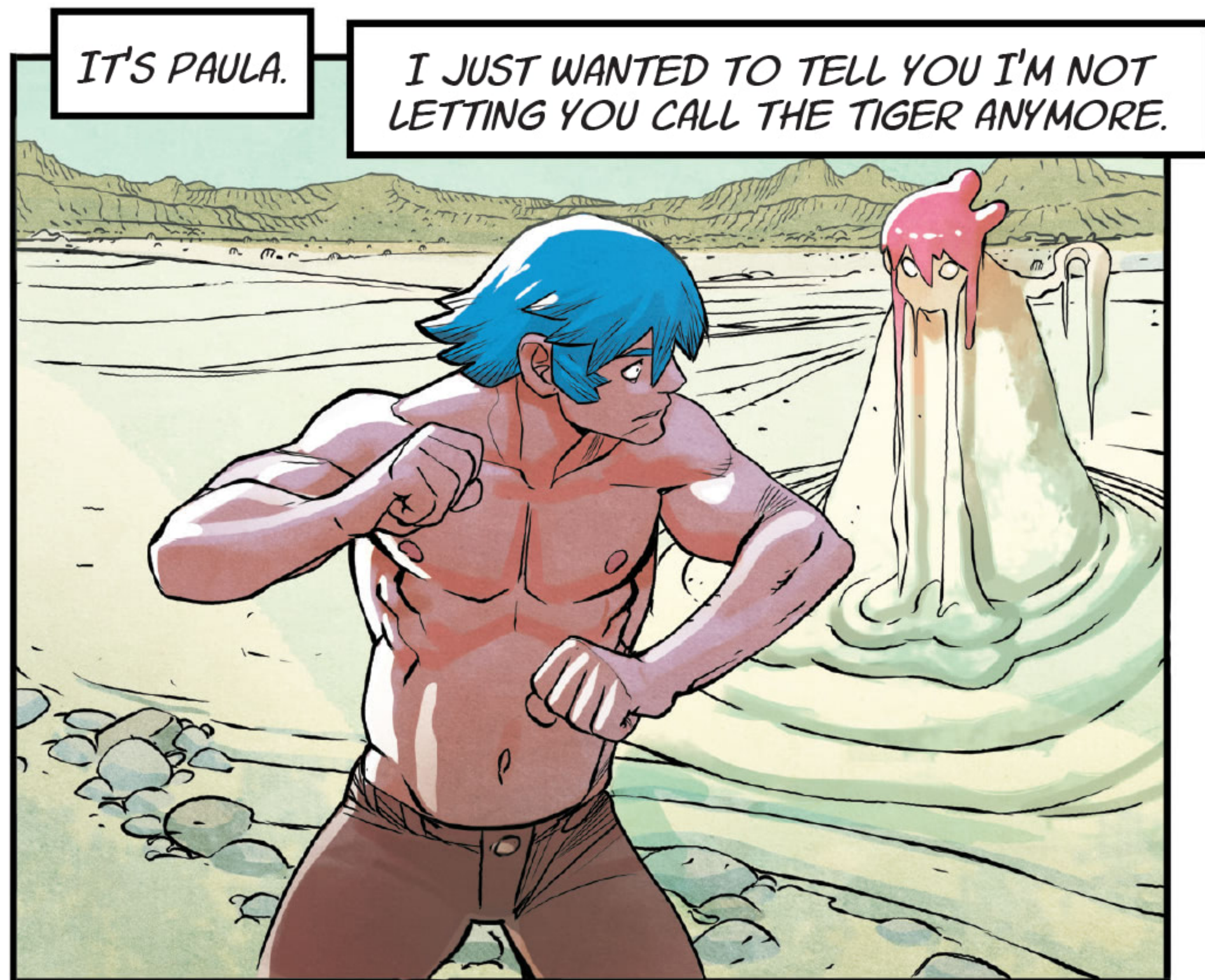
THE NEXT "RENT" IS IN 10 DAYS. TIME
TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING.



SOMETHING TELLS ME I MIGHT GET AN EXPLANATION SOONER THAN EXPECTED...

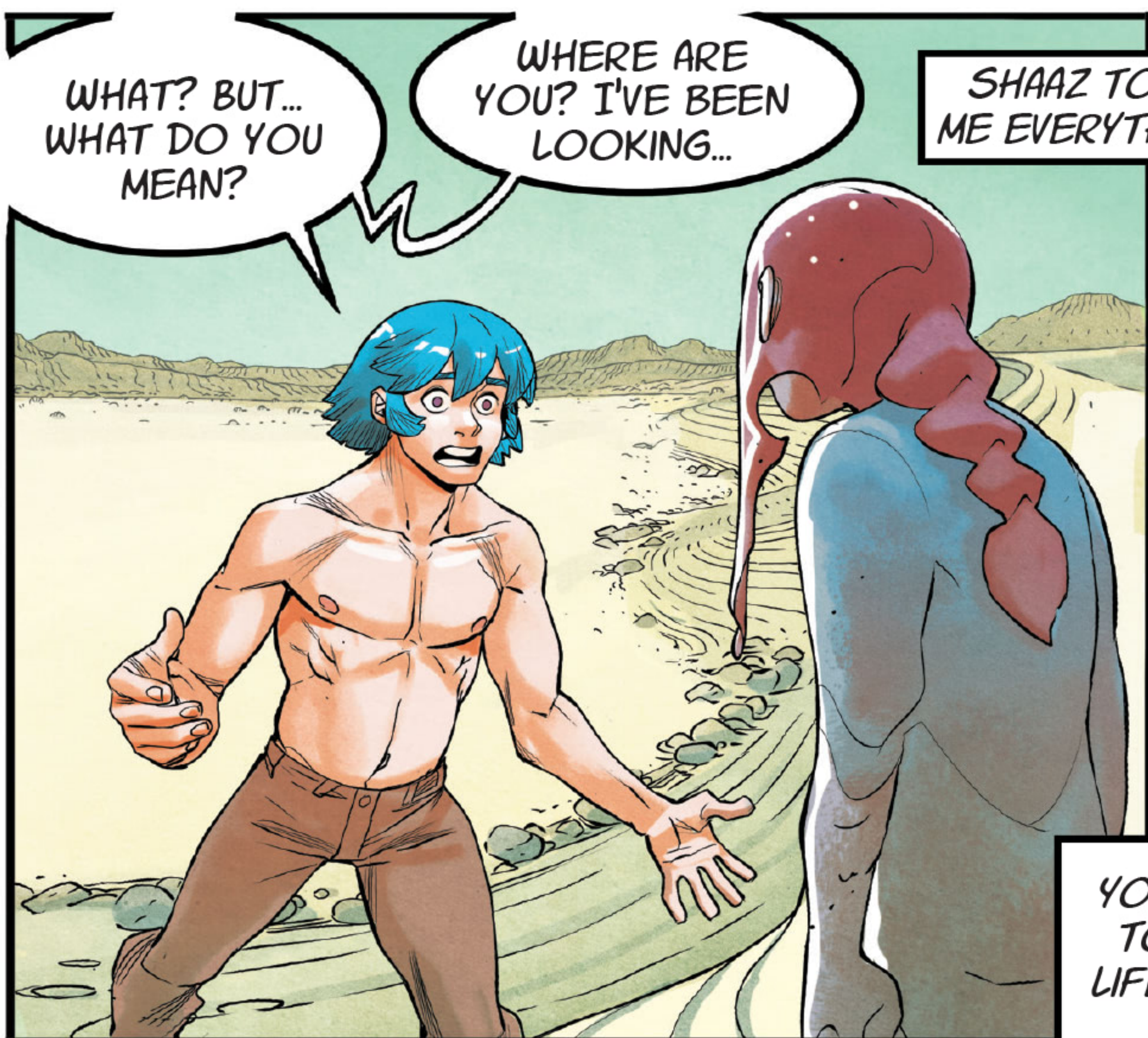


ANGEL?



IT'S PAULA.

I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU I'M NOT LETTING YOU CALL THE TIGER ANYMORE.



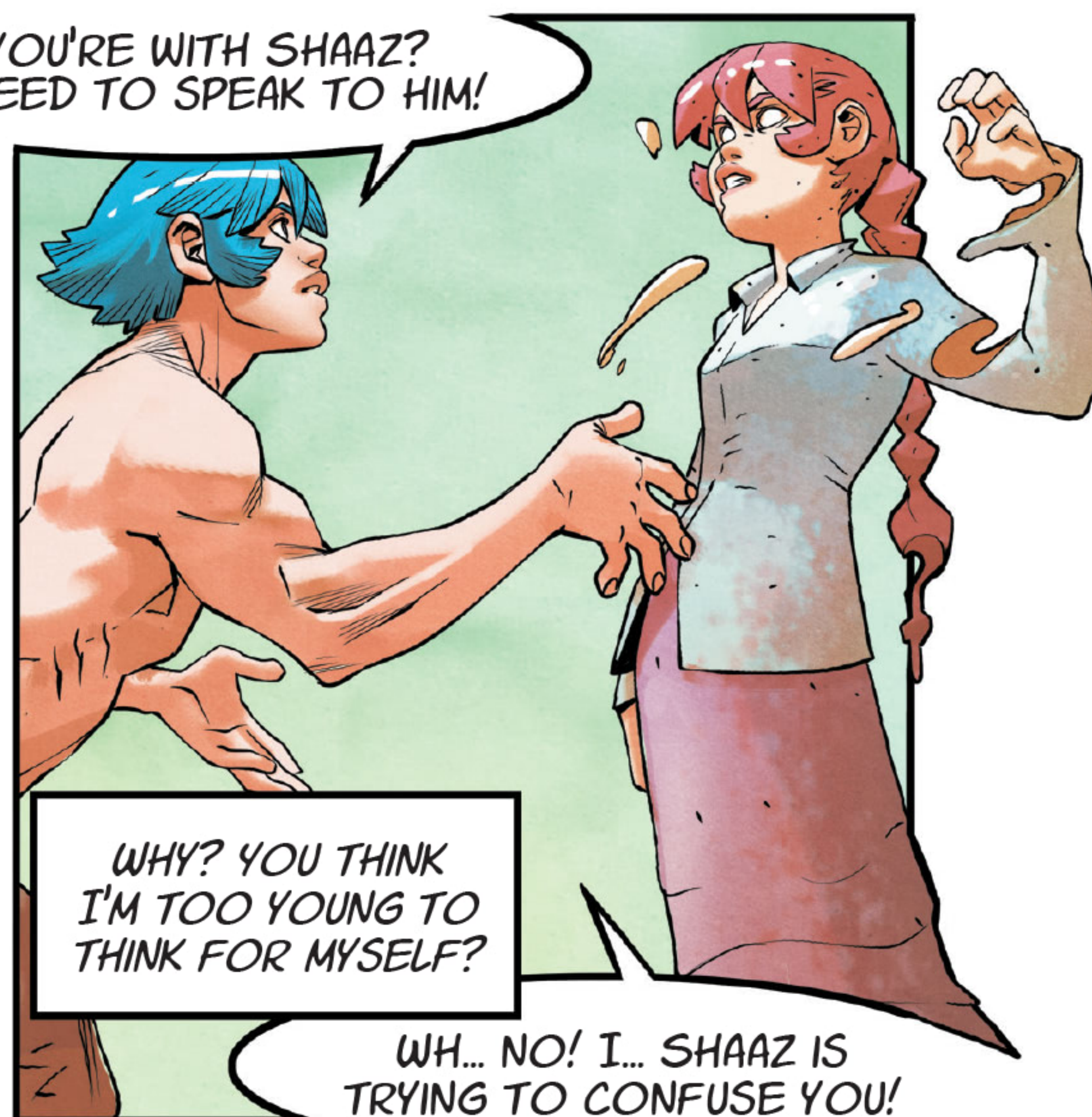
WHAT? BUT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHERE ARE YOU? I'VE BEEN LOOKING...

SHAAZ TOLD ME EVERYTHING.



YOU JUST GAVE ME THE TIGER TOTEM TO SAVE YOUR OWN LIFE. YOU MIGHT AS WELL HAVE GIVEN ME A COLD.



YOU'RE WITH SHAAZ? I NEED TO SPEAK TO HIM!

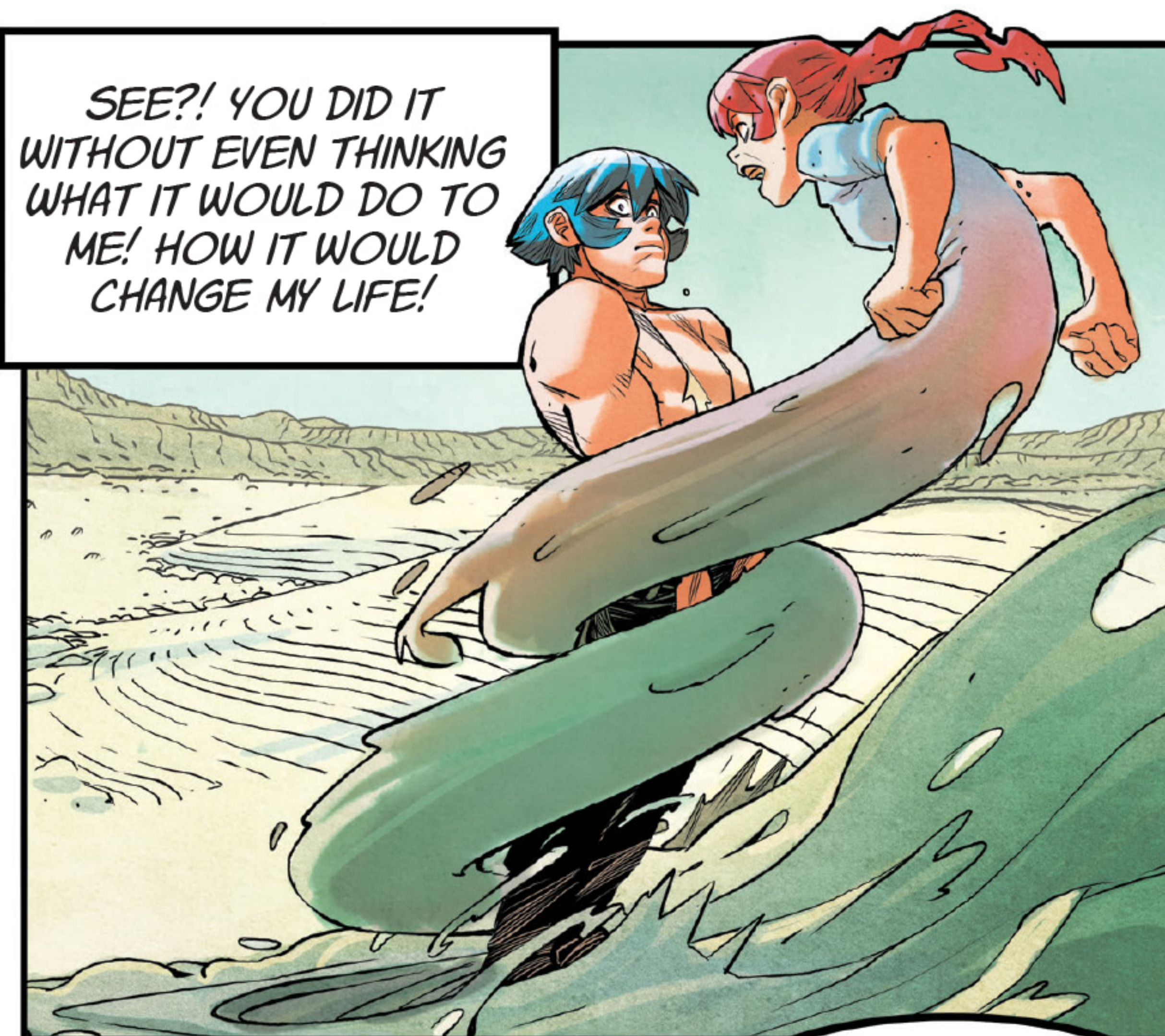
WHY? YOU THINK I'M TOO YOUNG TO THINK FOR MYSELF?

WH... NO! I... SHAAZ IS TRYING TO CONFUSE YOU!



TELL ME HE'S LYING! IS IT TRUE YOU WERE ACTING LIKE A DRUG ADDICT BEFORE YOU SHARED YOUR POWERS WITH ME?!

NOT EXACTLY...



SEE?! YOU DID IT WITHOUT EVEN THINKING WHAT IT WOULD DO TO ME! HOW IT WOULD CHANGE MY LIFE!



I'M... SORRY! GKK... THIS ISN'T... HOW I WANTED THINGS TO GO...

KOF KOF

...SHE'S GONE...





I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO TIE UP THE TIGER...

I SHOULD TALK TO KATIA...



...BUT I CAN'T! AND NOW I'M STARTING TO THINK IT WAS A MISTAKE TO GIVE MY OTHER TOTEMS TO THE TEAM...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN "GIVE THE OTHER TOTEMS" AWAY...?



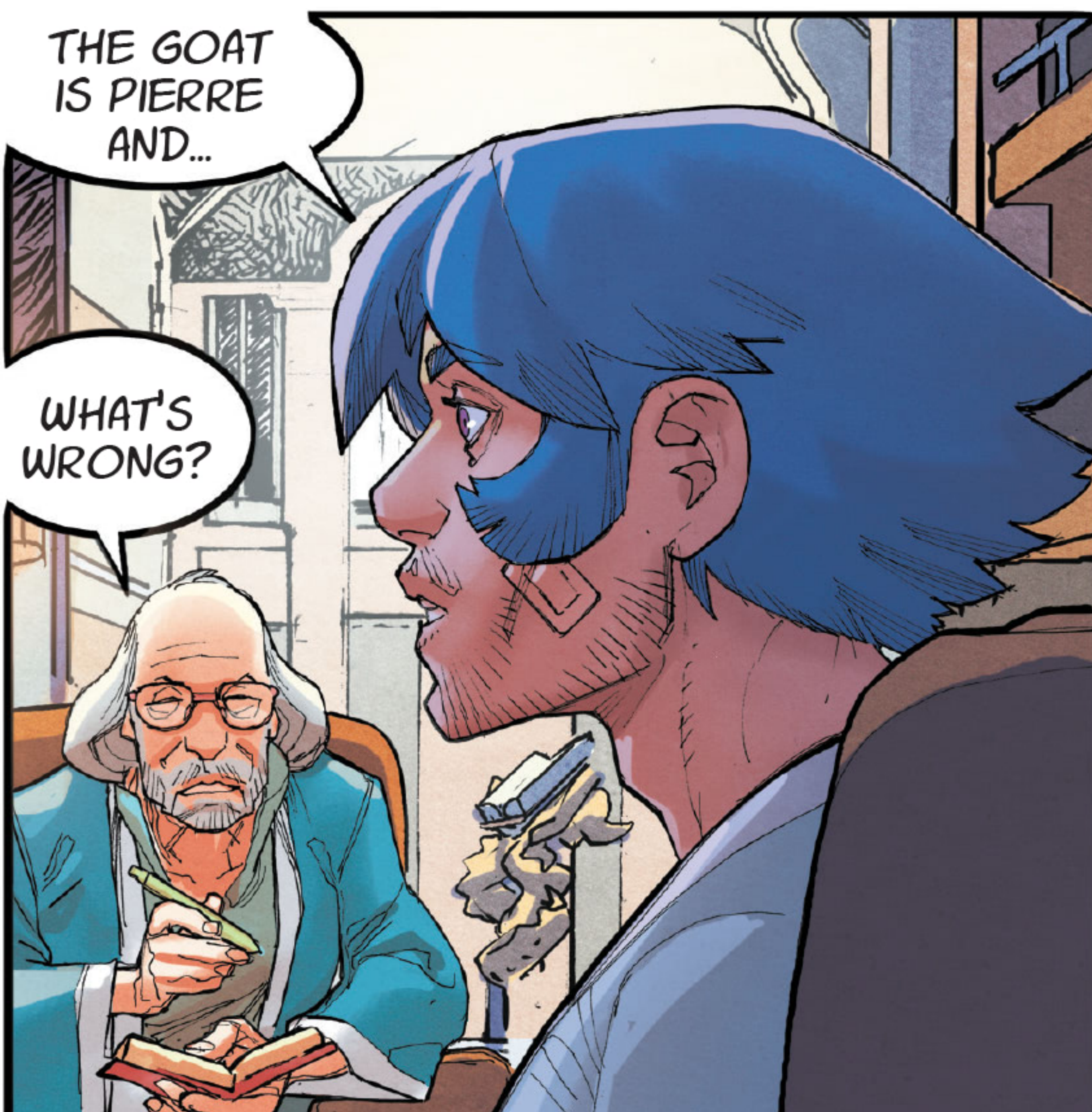
WHEN I GOT ALL OF MY BINOMIAL PARTNERS TOGETHER AT MY APARTMENT IN PARIS, WE DECIDED TO SHARE EACH DIZHI BETWEEN TWO OF US.

TO STRENGTHEN EACH OF US AND CREATE BONDS.

KATIA AND I SHARE THE HORSE. SHE AND HER SISTER SHARE THE MONKEY.



AADI AND PIERRE SHARE THE RABBIT.

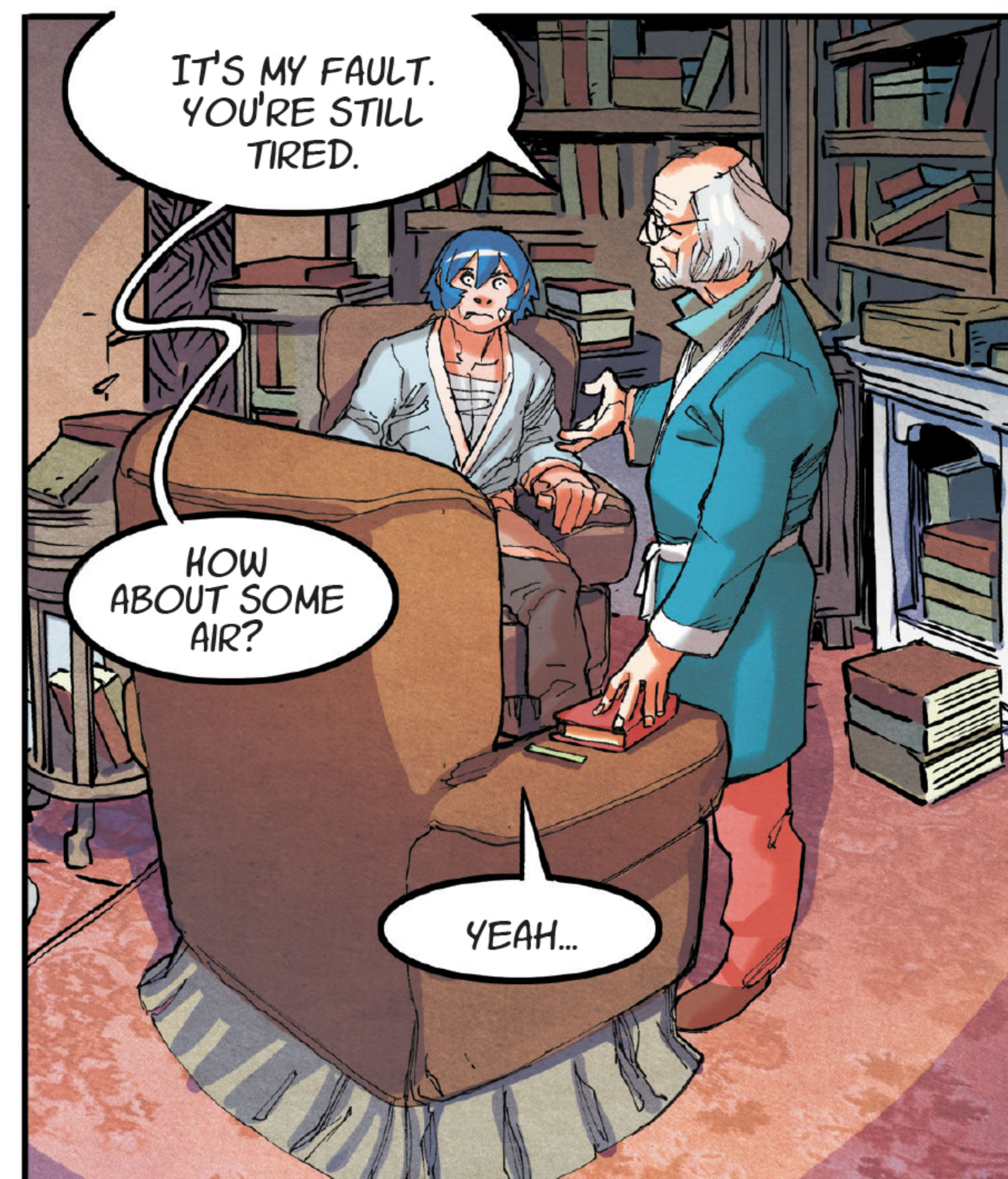


THE GOAT IS PIERRE AND...

WHAT'S WRONG?



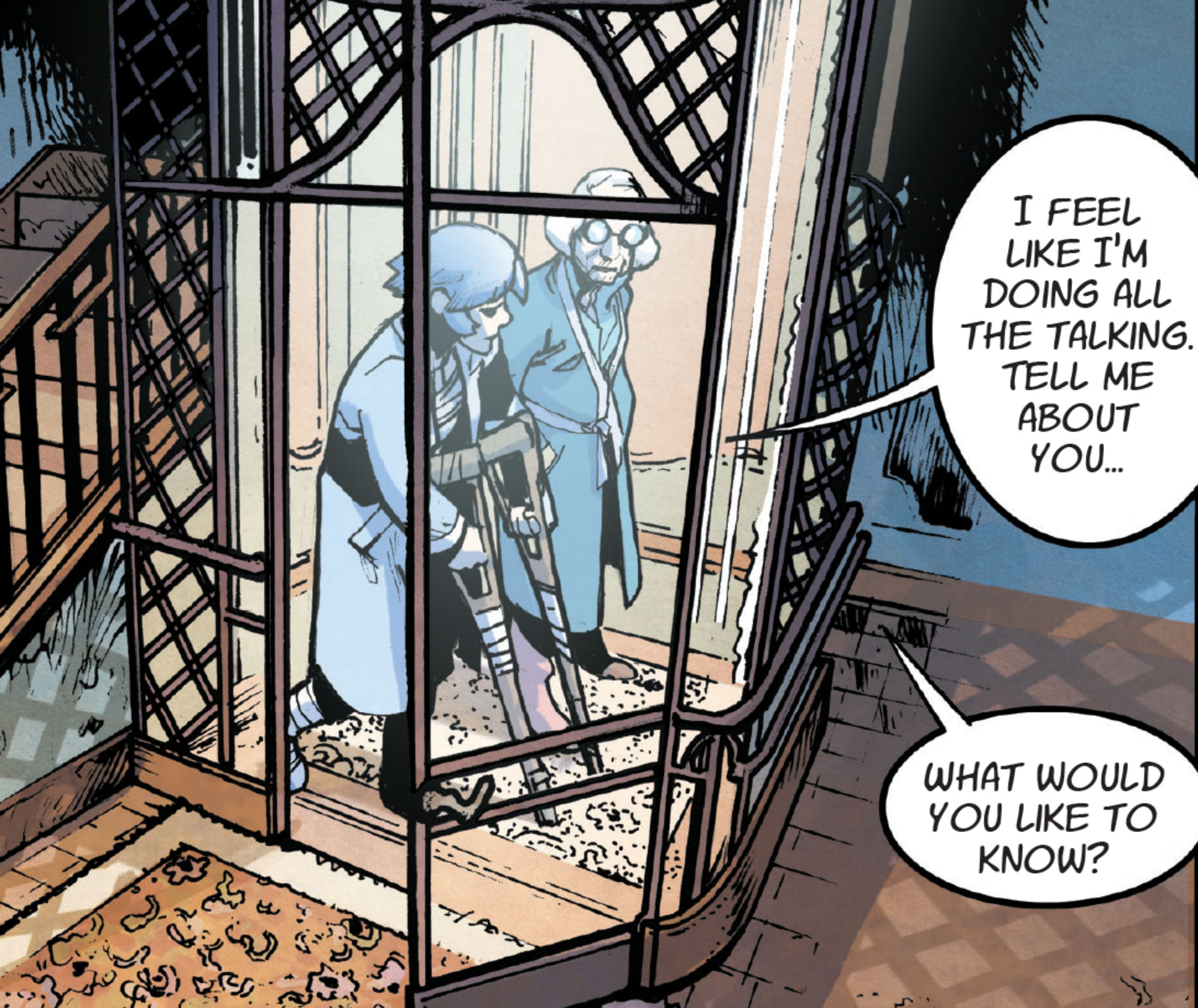
I... MY MEMORY IS SPOTTY. I KNOW I'M FORGETTING THINGS, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT.



IT'S MY FAULT. YOU'RE STILL TIRED.

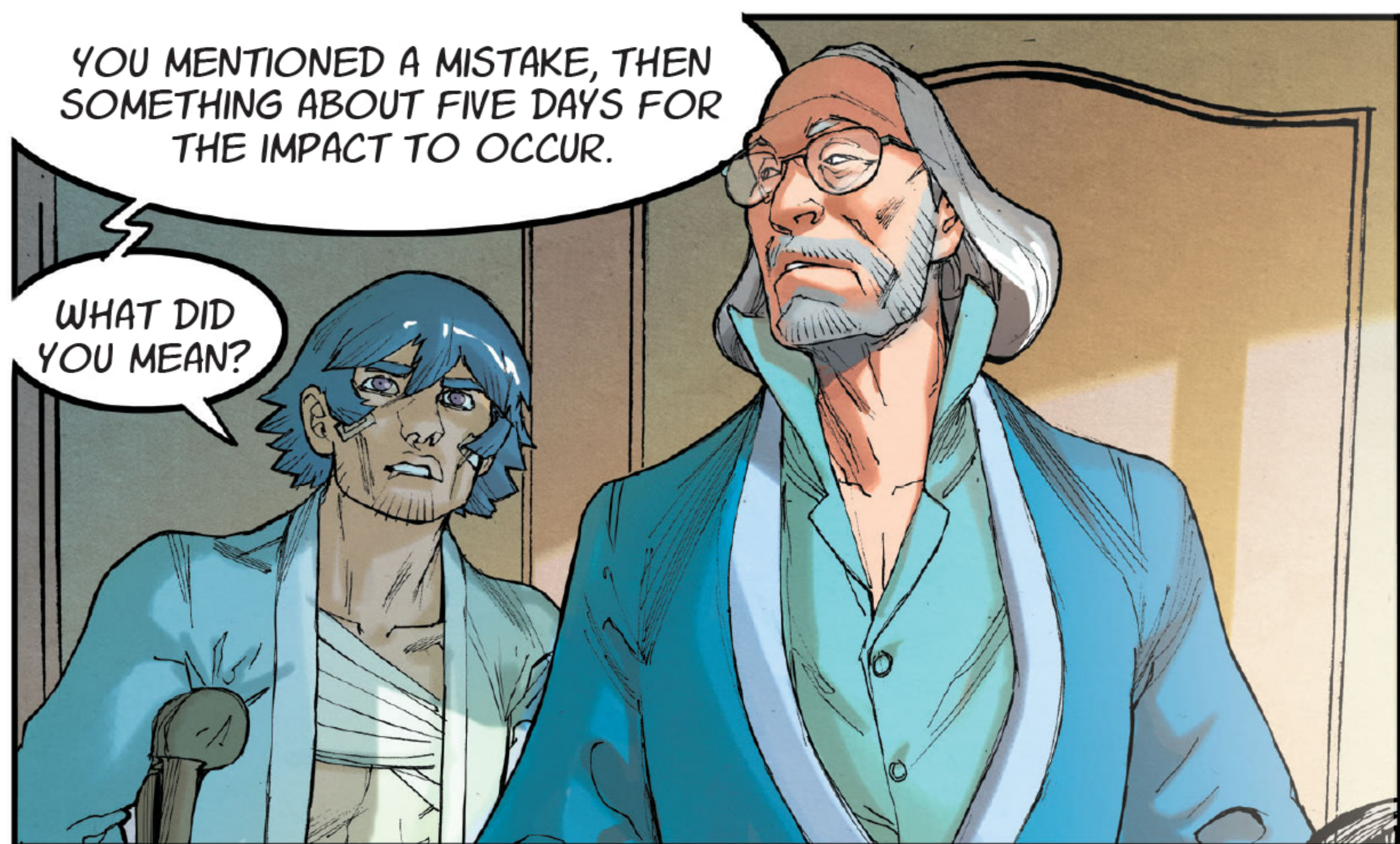
HOW ABOUT SOME AIR?

YEAH...



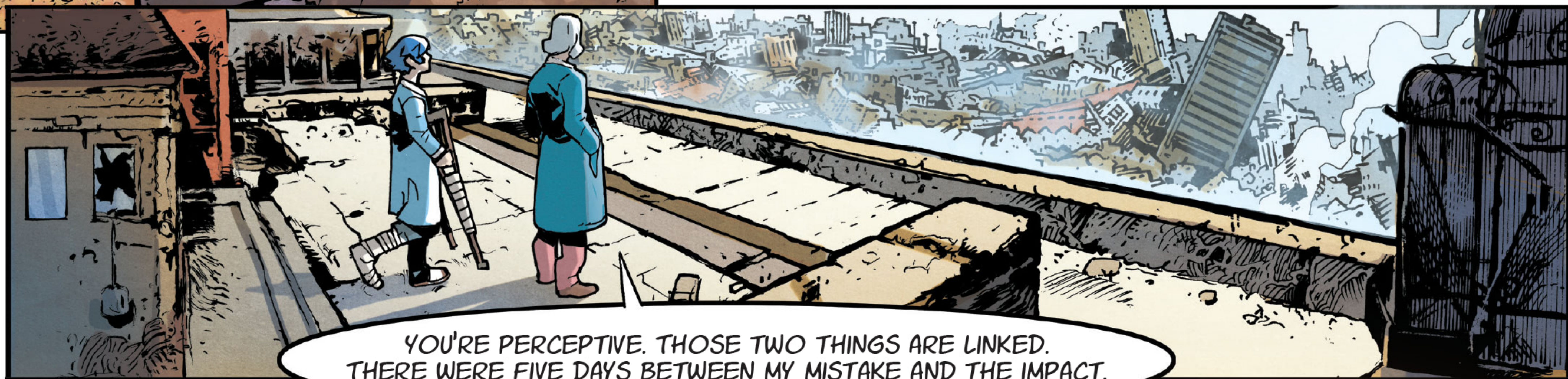
I FEEL LIKE I'M DOING ALL THE TALKING. TELL ME ABOUT YOU...

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?

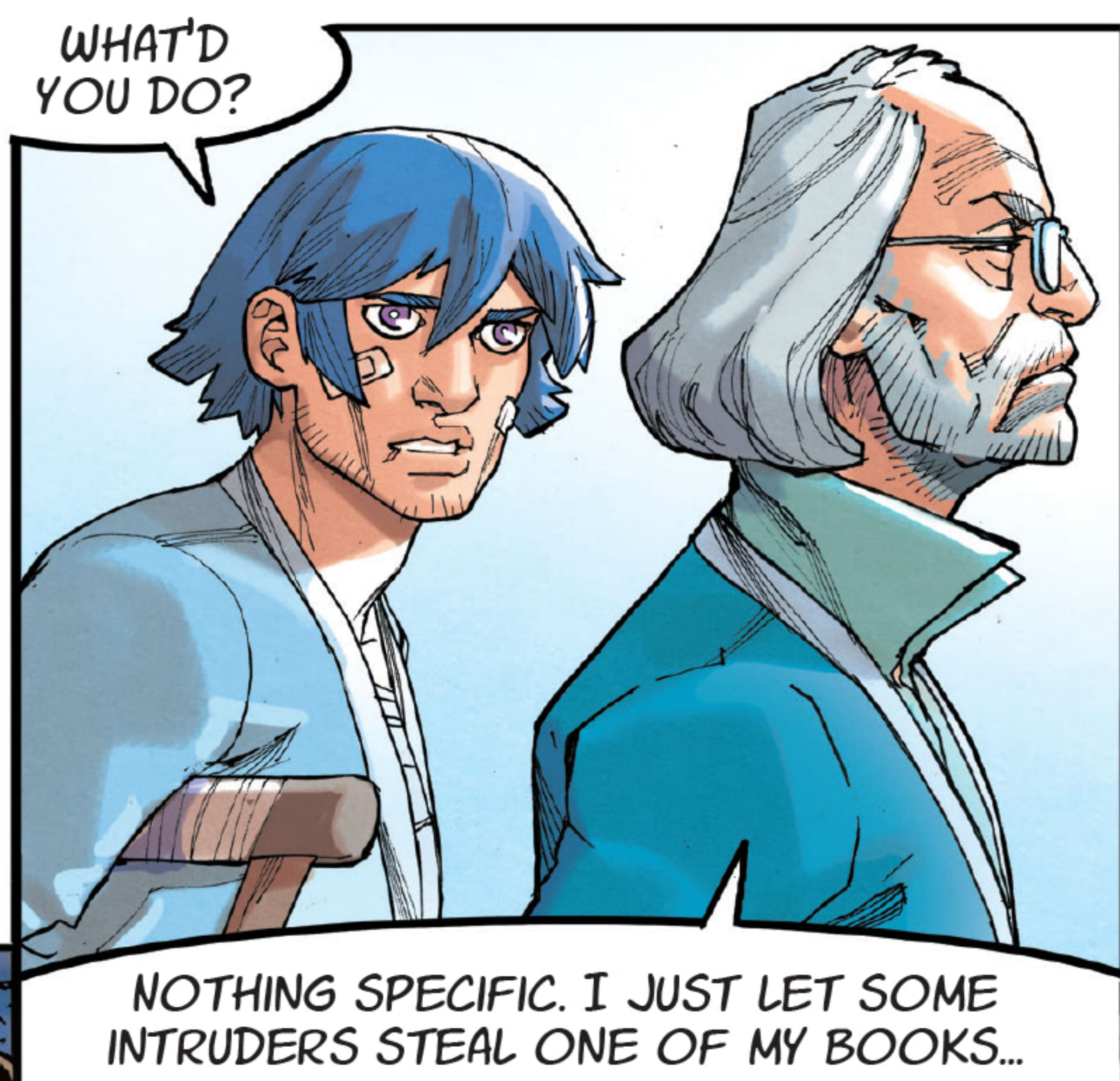


YOU MENTIONED A MISTAKE, THEN SOMETHING ABOUT FIVE DAYS FOR THE IMPACT TO OCCUR.

WHAT DID YOU MEAN?

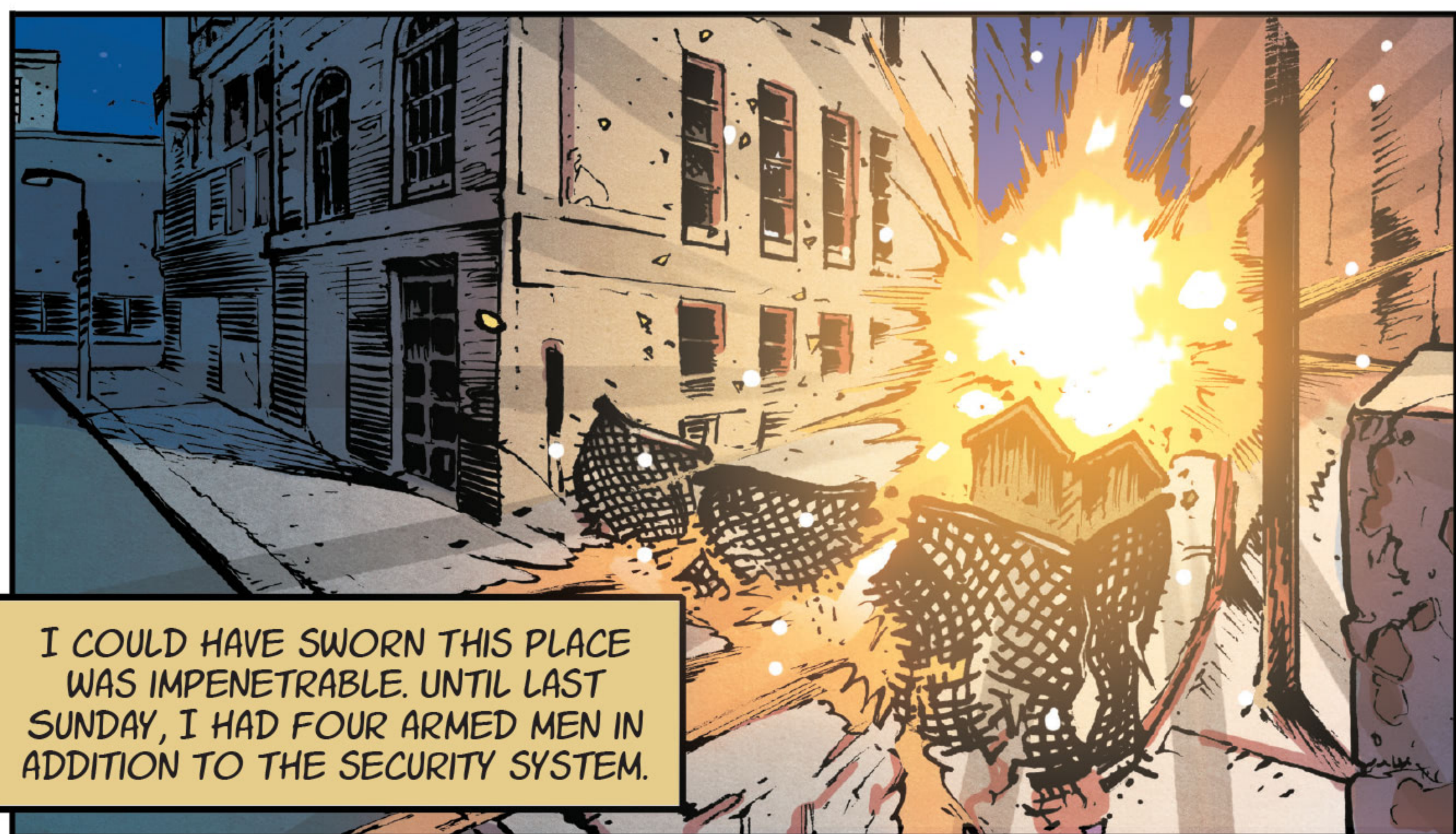


YOU'RE PERCEPTIVE. THOSE TWO THINGS ARE LINKED. THERE WERE FIVE DAYS BETWEEN MY MISTAKE AND THE IMPACT.



WHAT'D YOU DO?

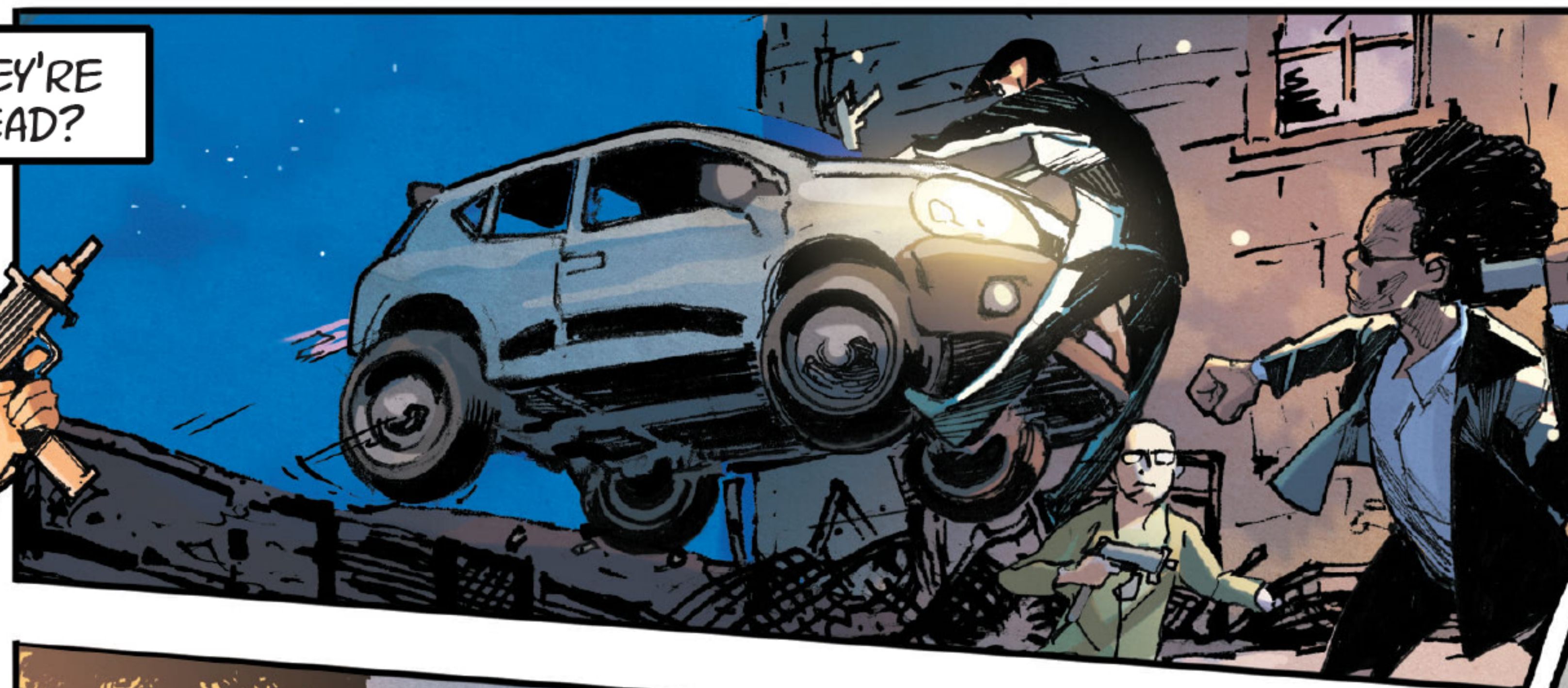
NOTHING SPECIFIC. I JUST LET SOME INTRUDERS STEAL ONE OF MY BOOKS...



I COULD HAVE SWORN THIS PLACE WAS IMPENETRABLE. UNTIL LAST SUNDAY, I HAD FOUR ARMED MEN IN ADDITION TO THE SECURITY SYSTEM.

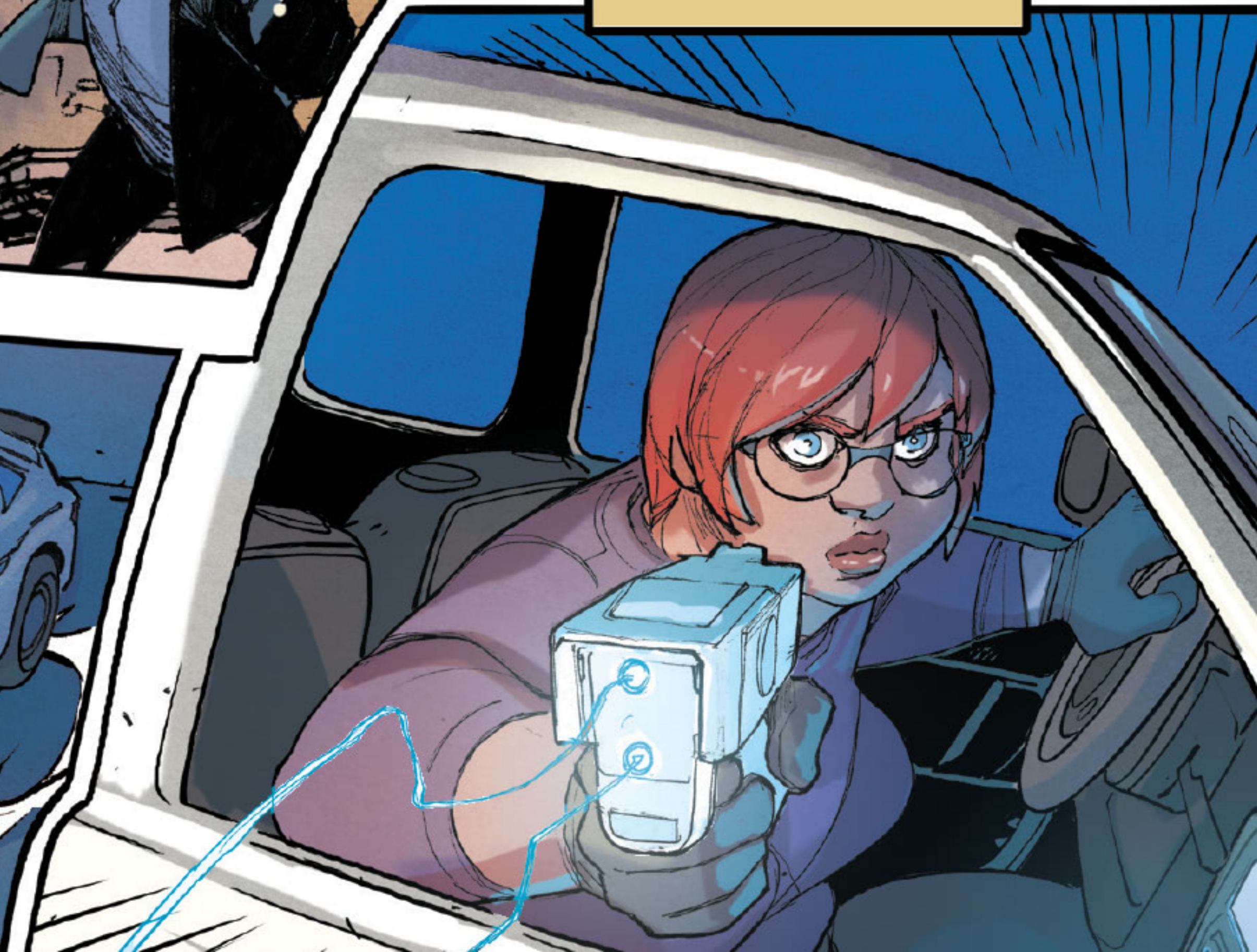
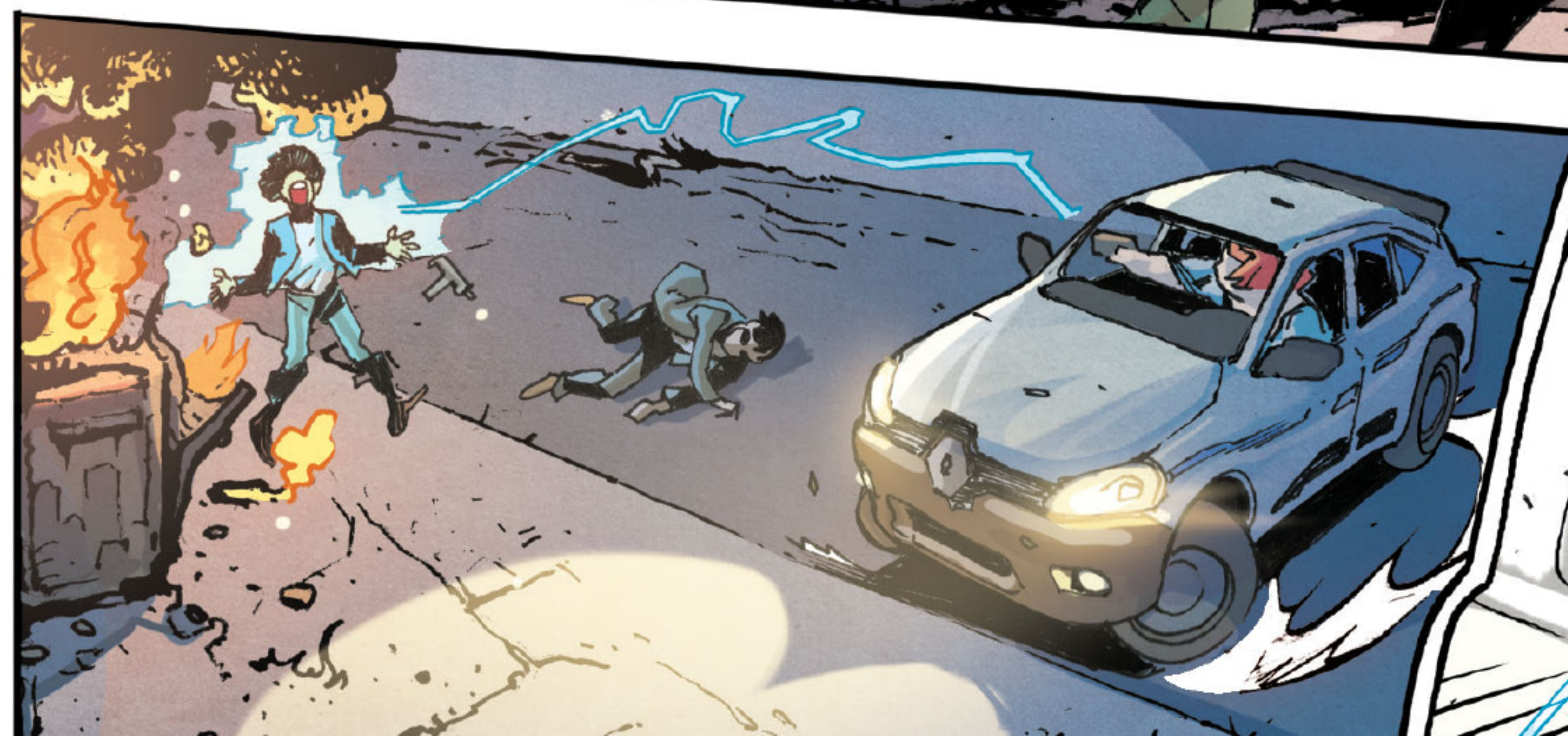


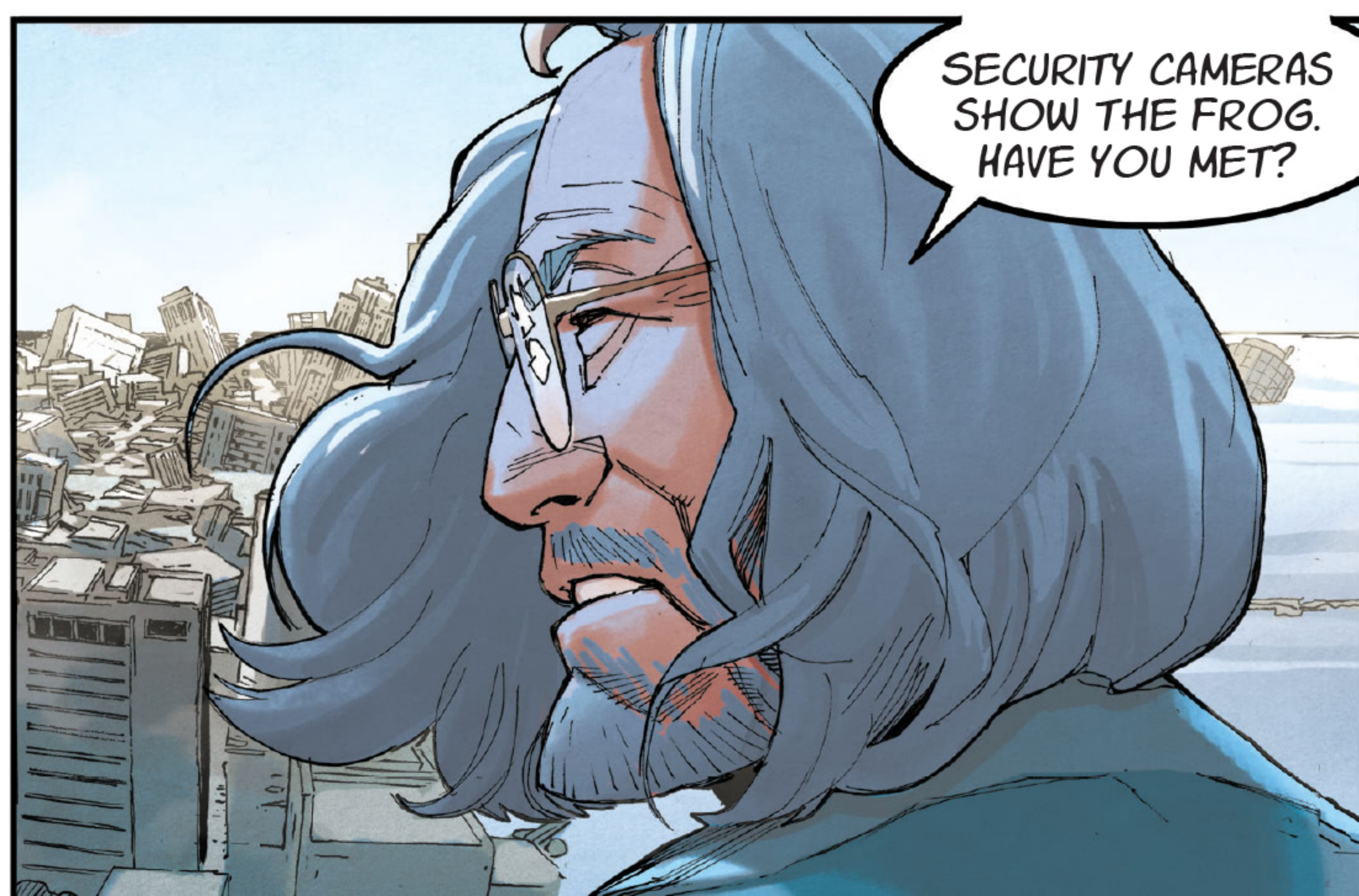
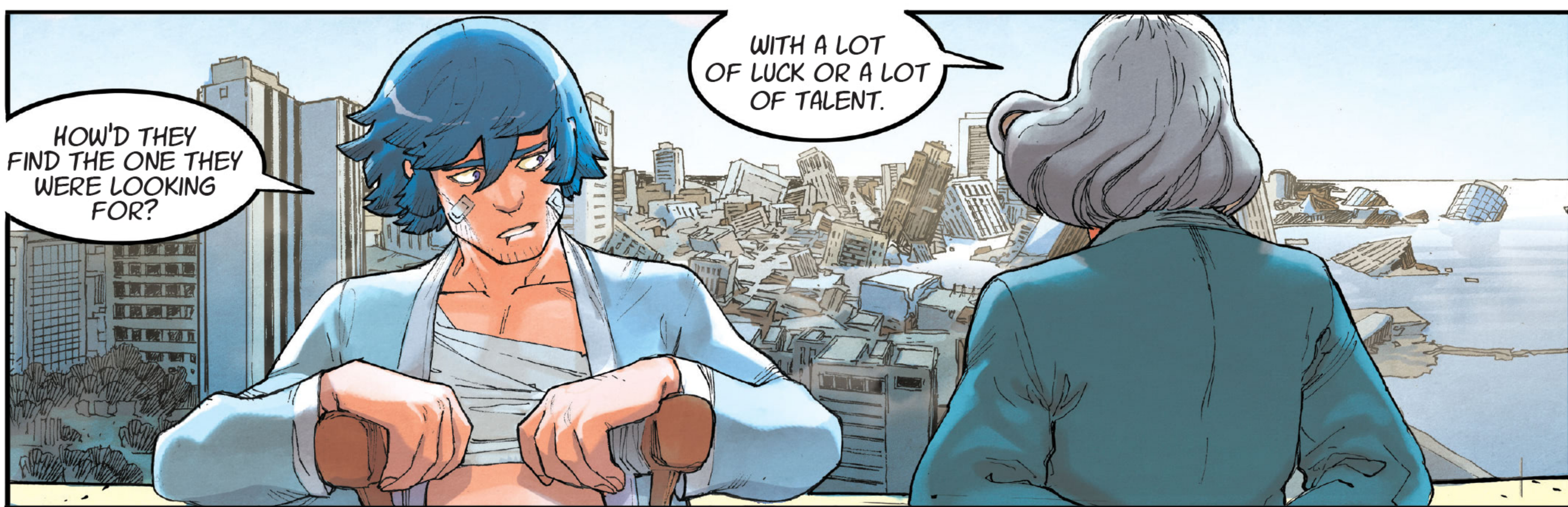
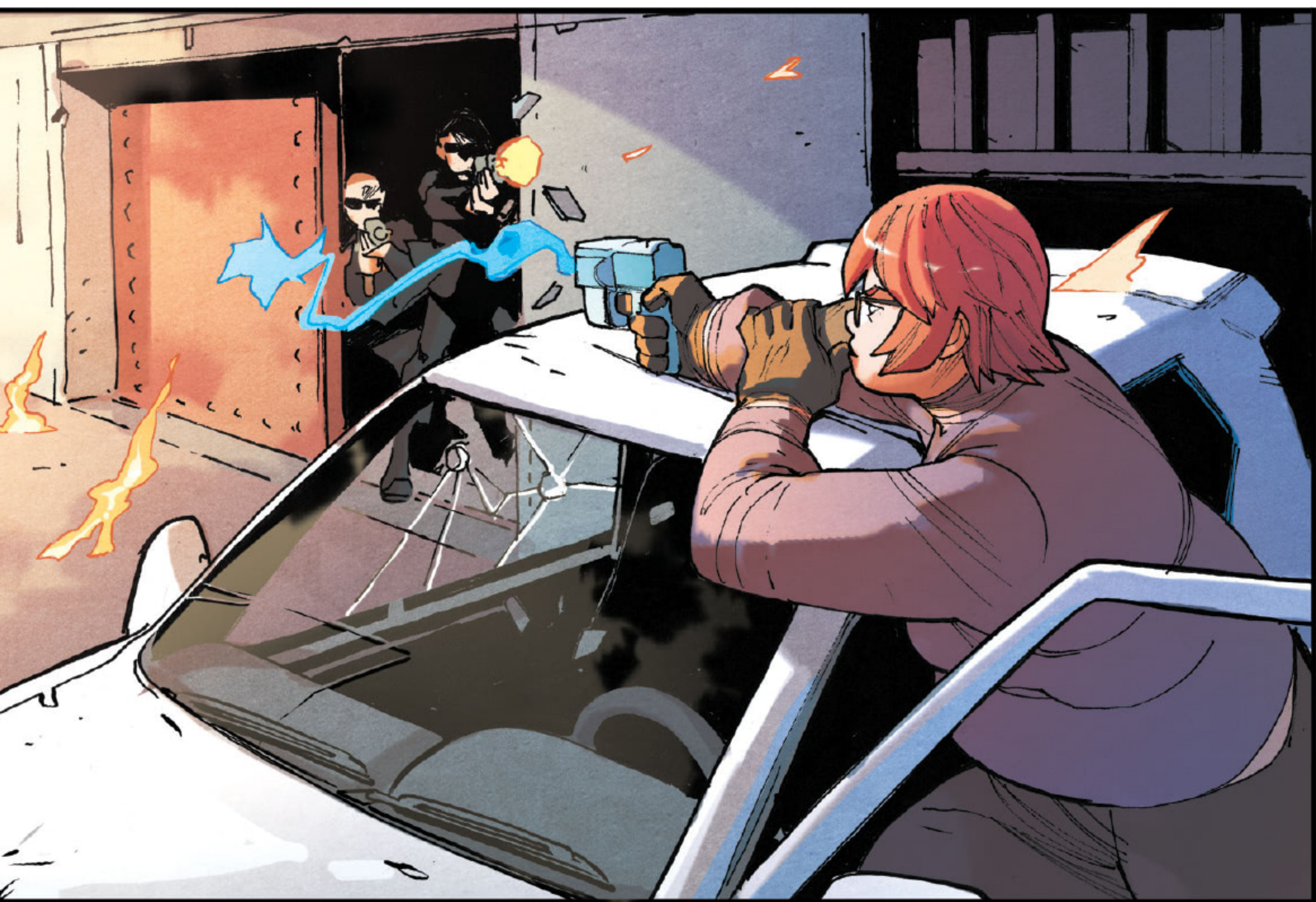
THEY'RE DEAD?

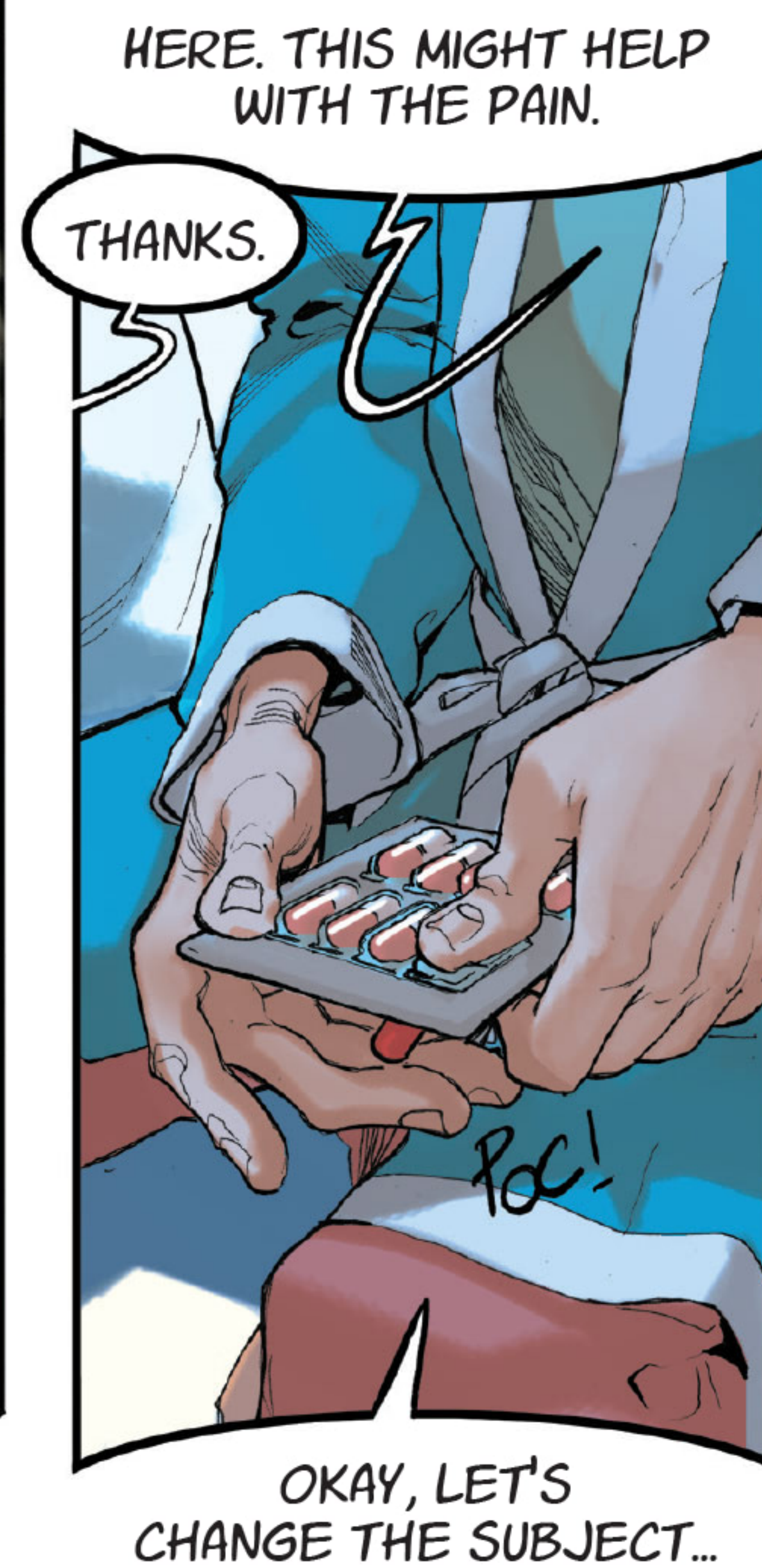
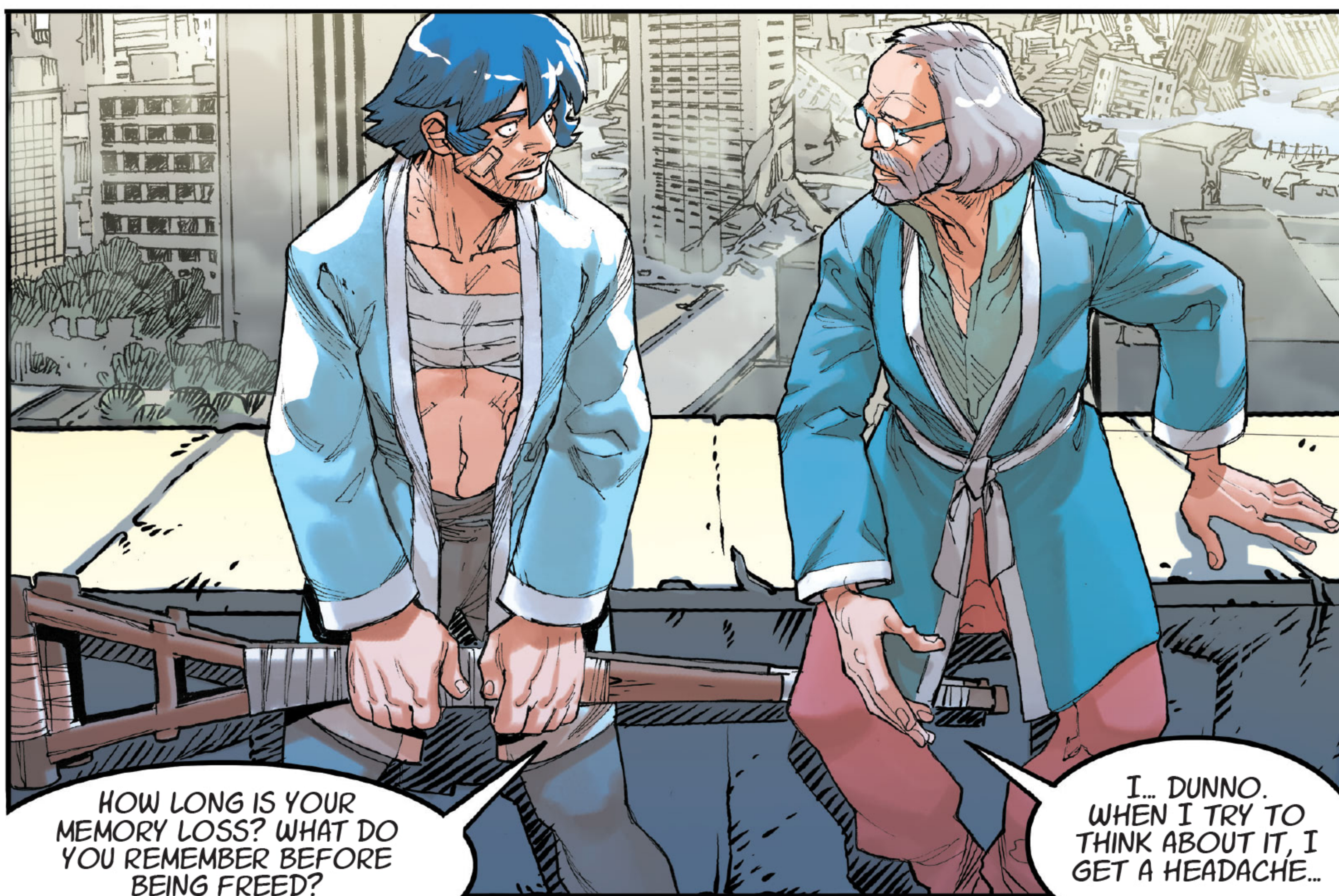
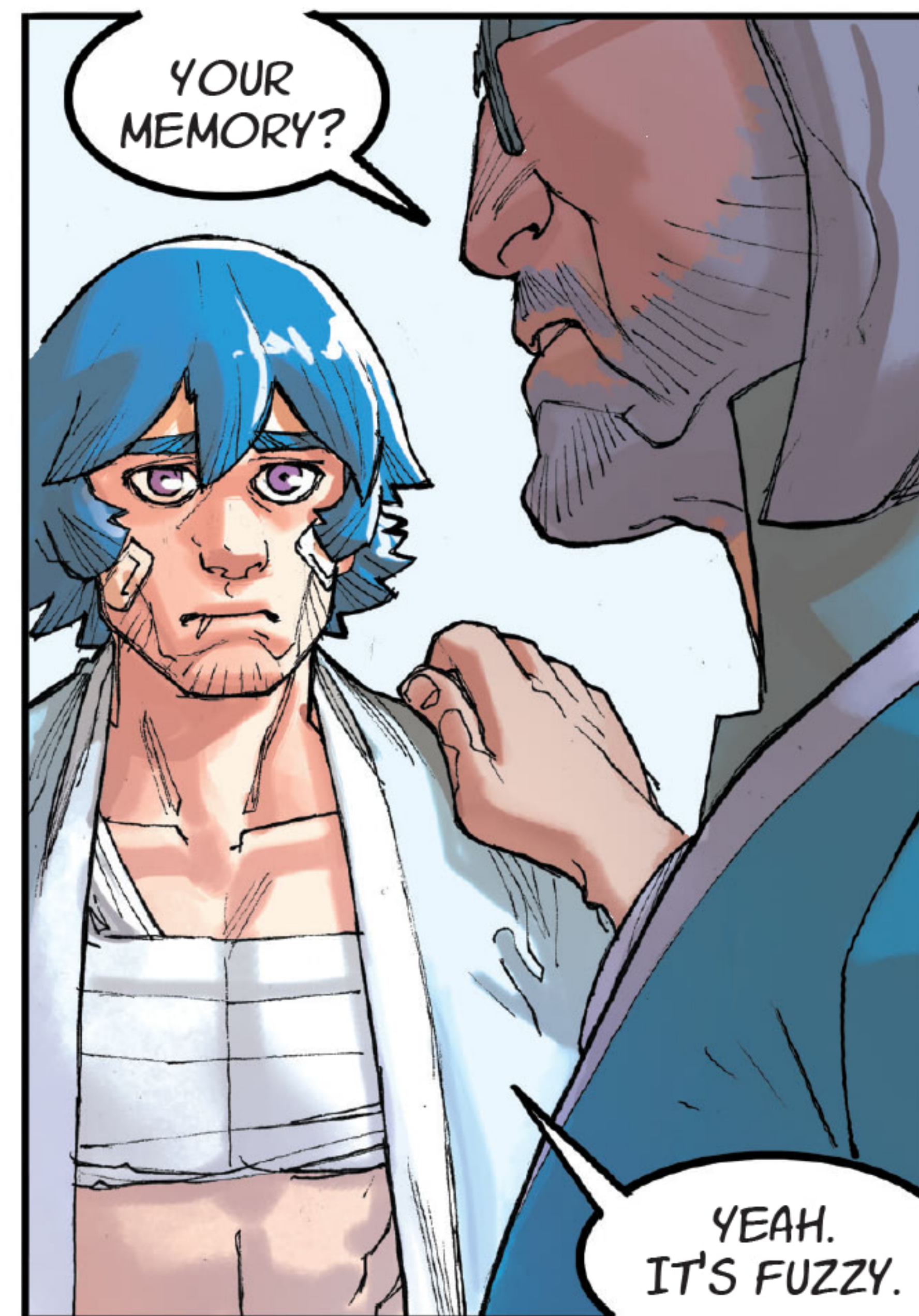
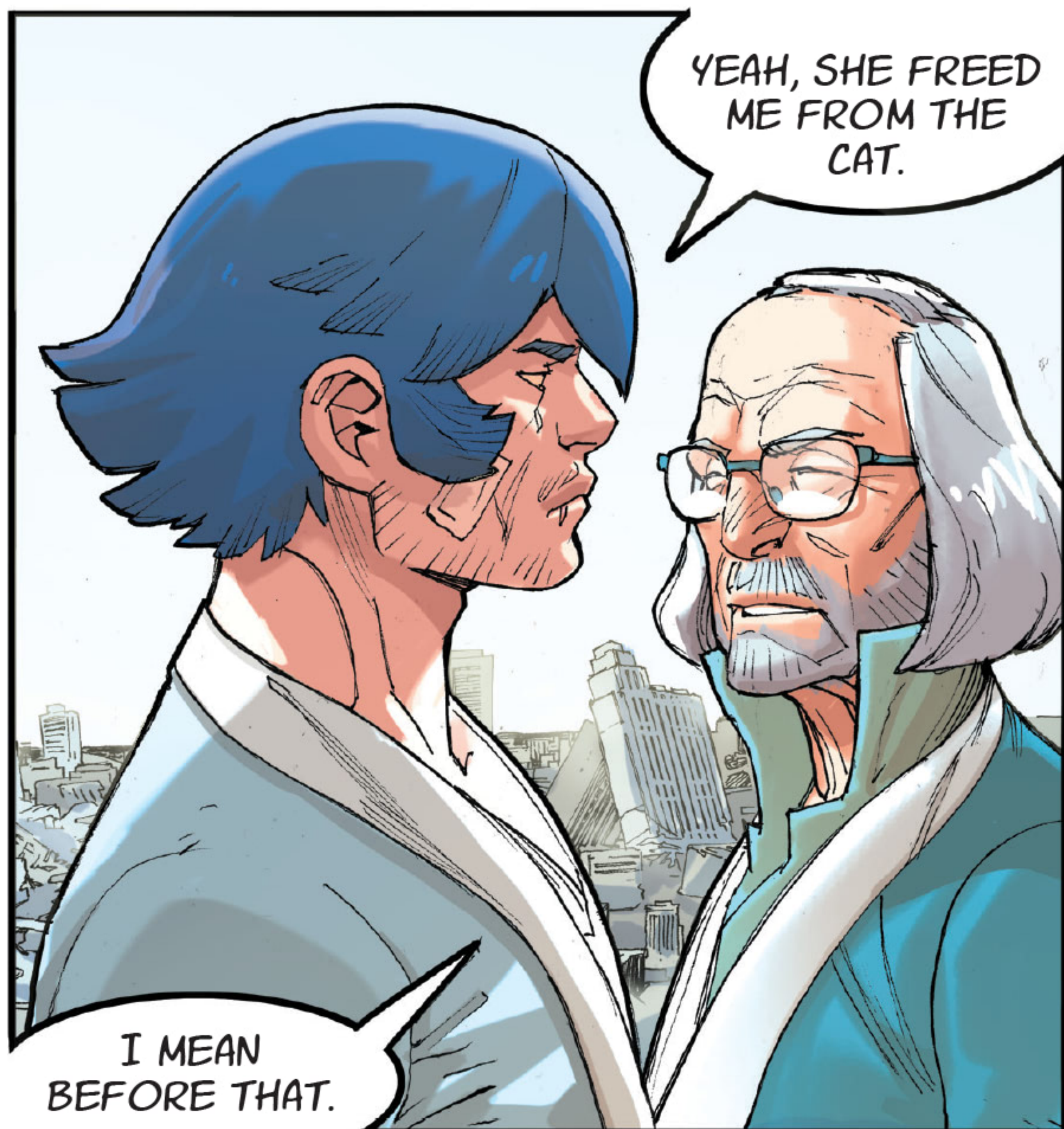


HOSPITALIZED.

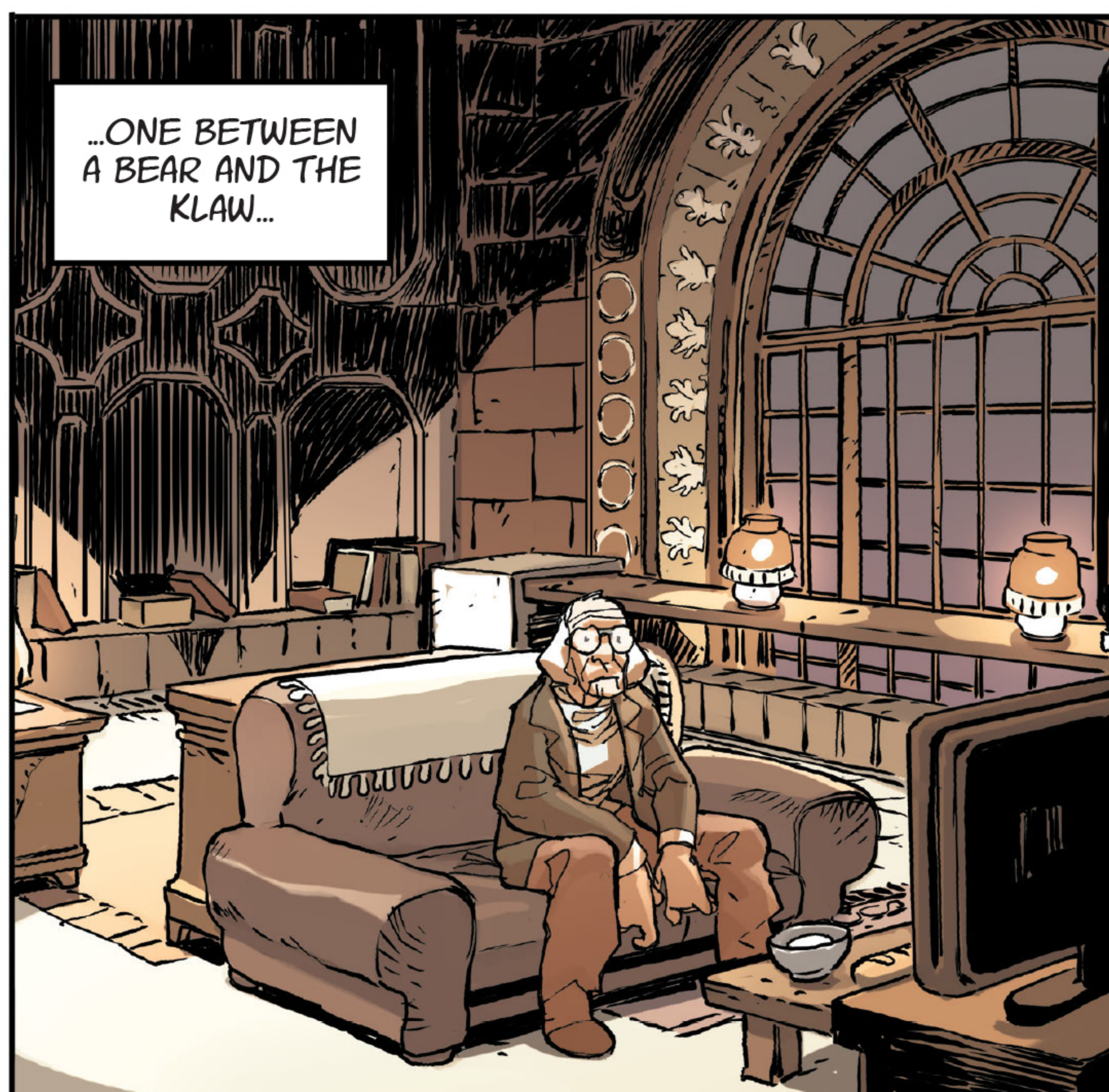
STRANGELY, THE THIEVES WEREN'T ASSASSINS.

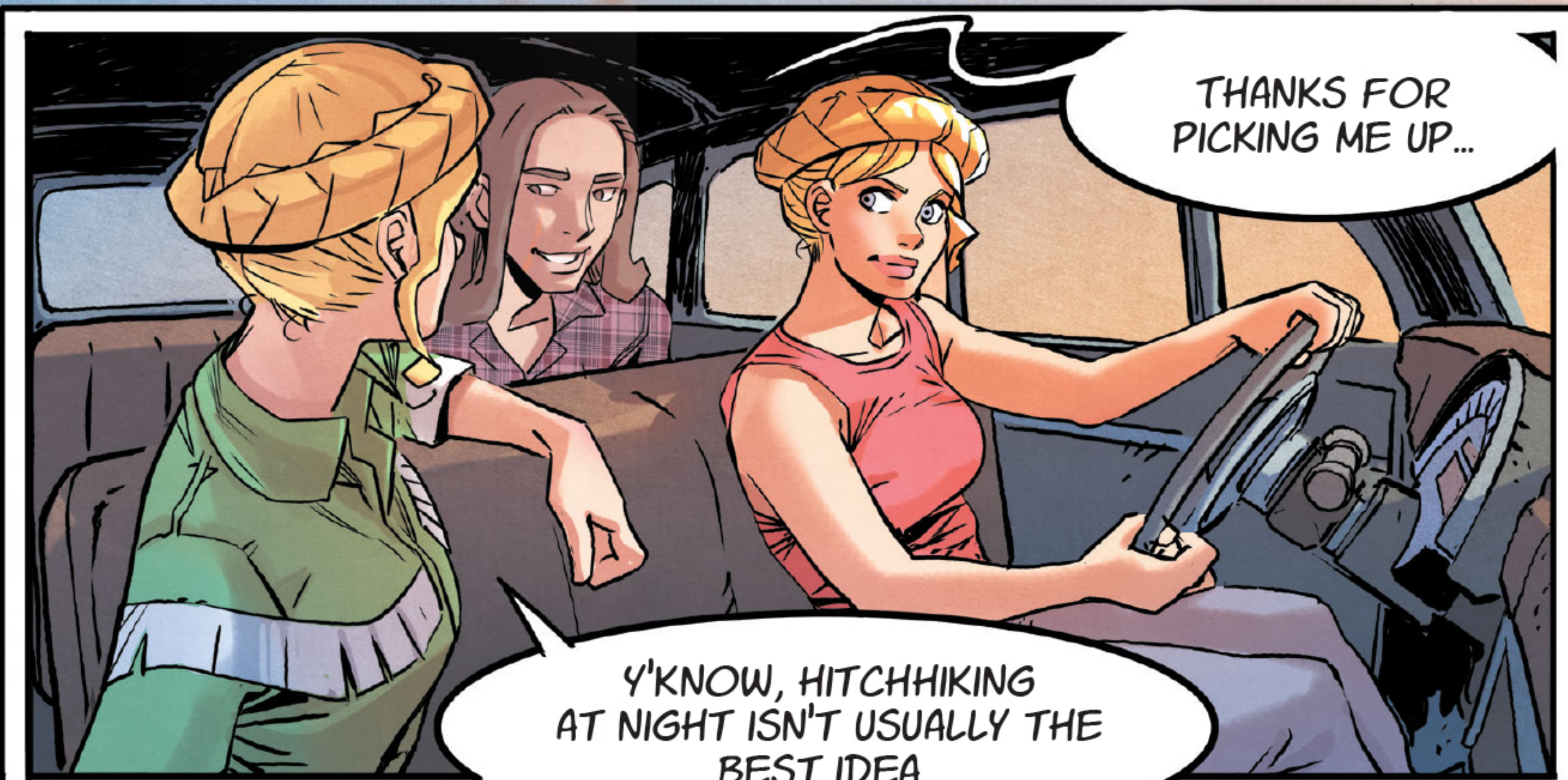






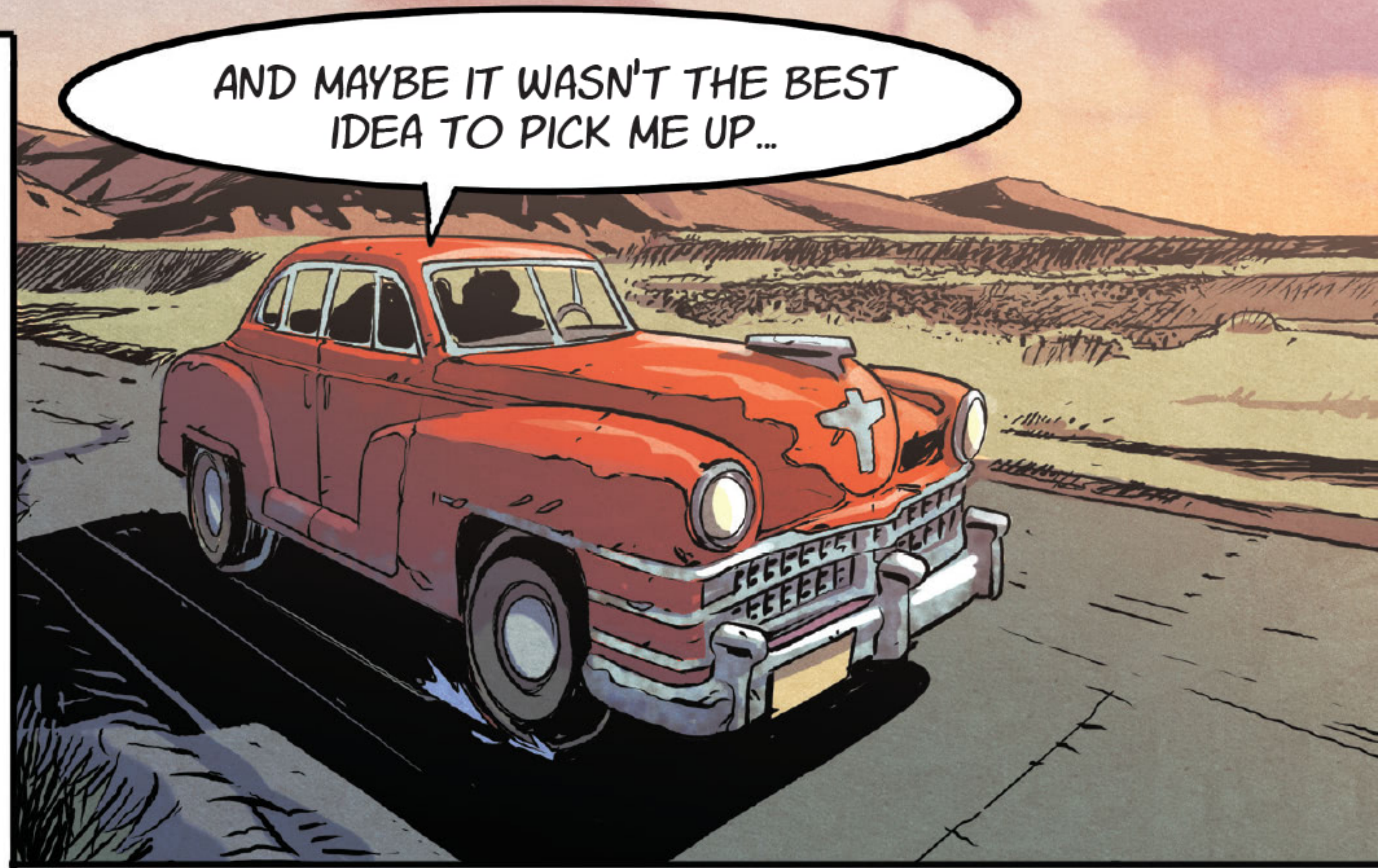
HEH, WELL, LIKE MOST PEOPLE, I WAS GLUED TO THE TELEVISION WATCHING A BATTLE FEW COULD UNDERSTAND...



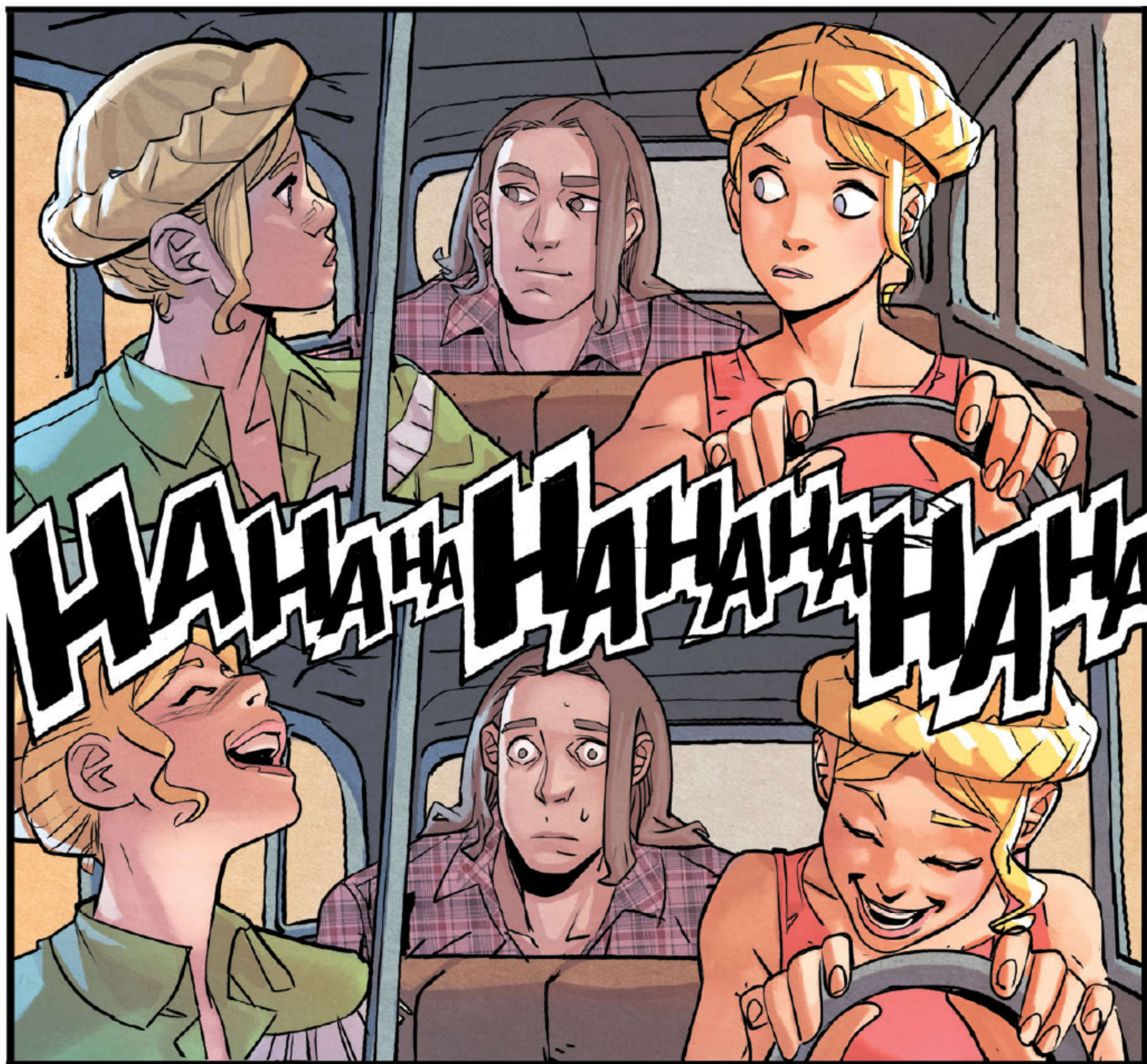


THANKS FOR PICKING ME UP...

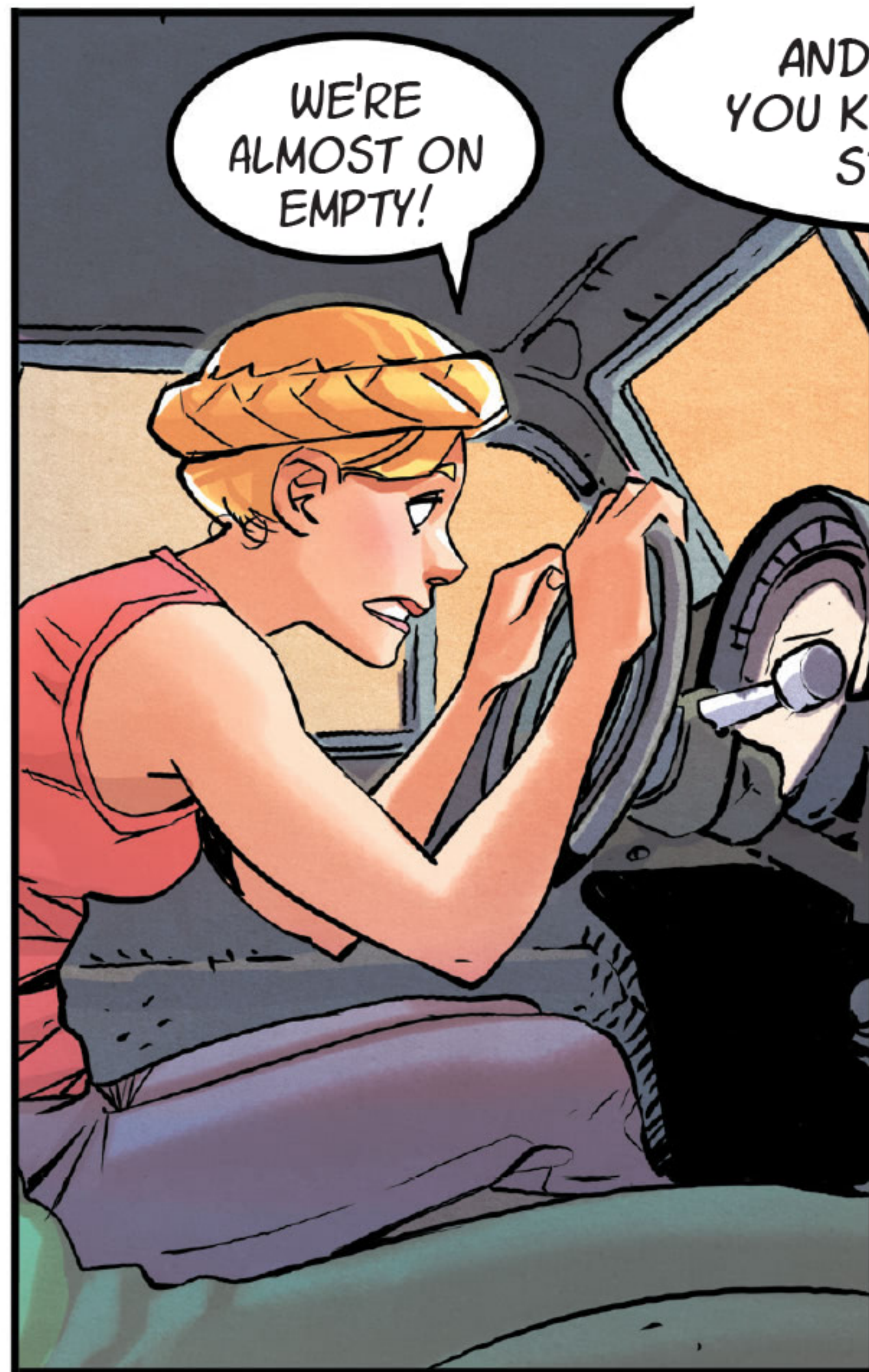
Y'KNOW, HITCHHIKING AT NIGHT ISN'T USUALLY THE BEST IDEA...



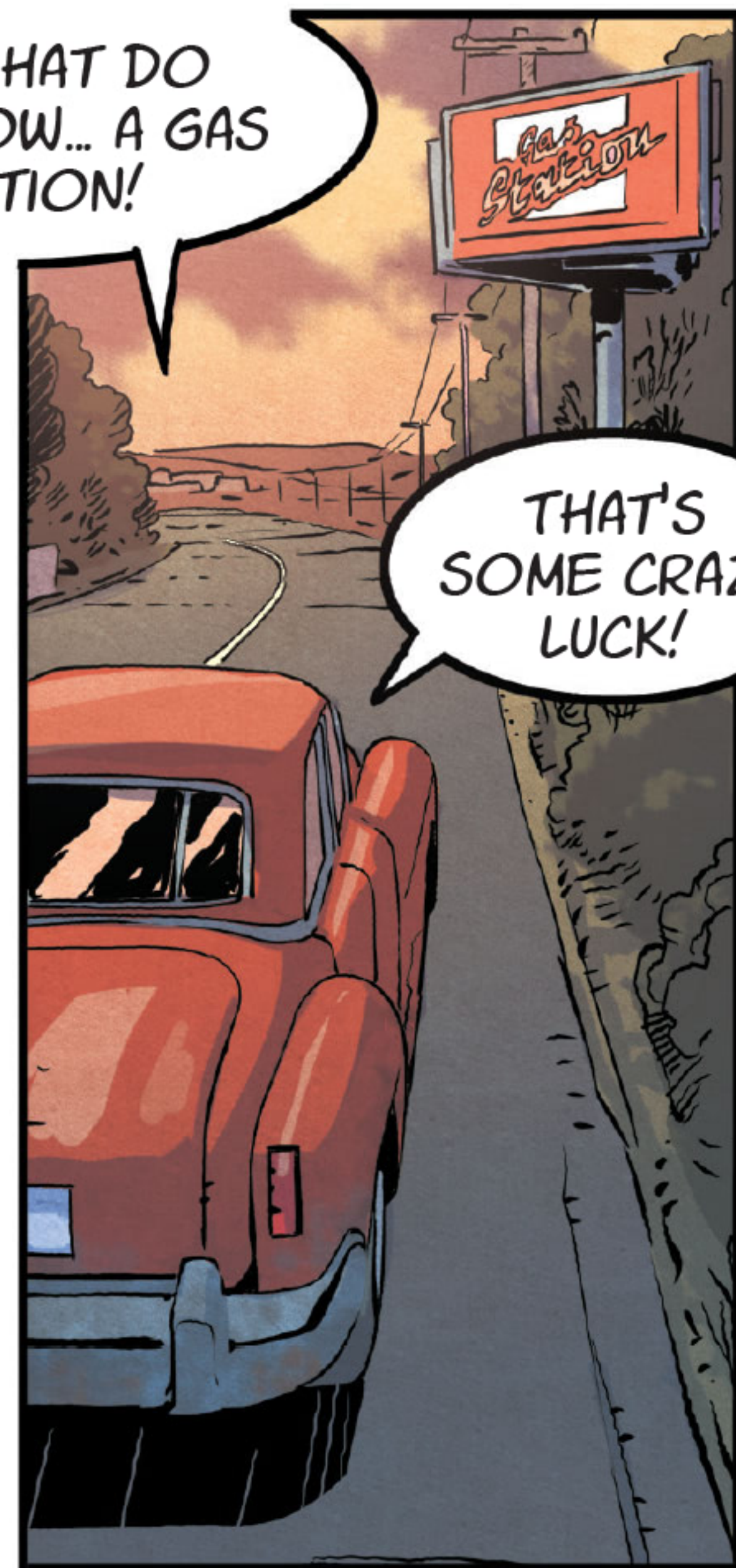
AND MAYBE IT WASN'T THE BEST IDEA TO PICK ME UP...



HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

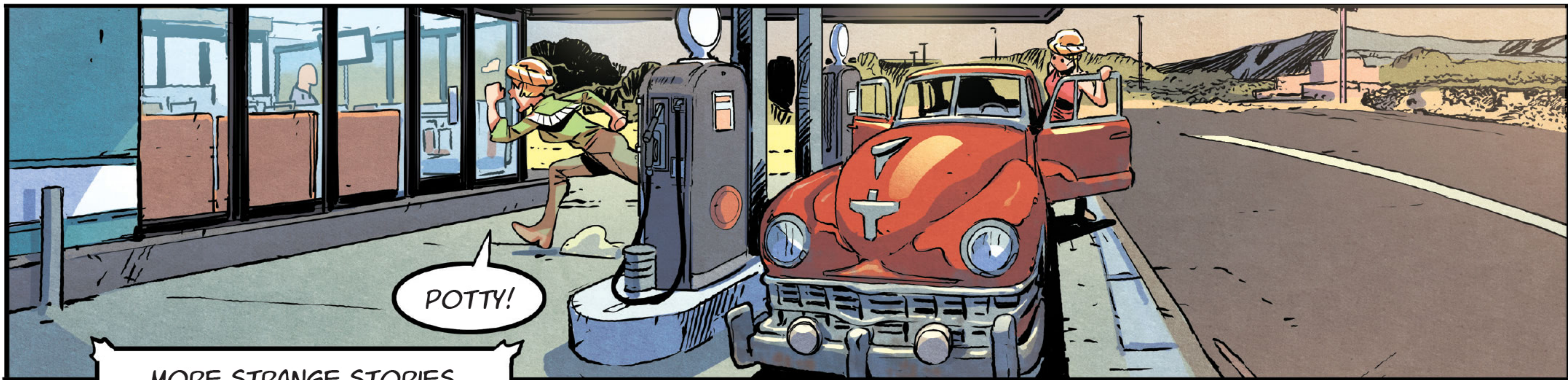


WE'RE ALMOST ON EMPTY!



AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW... A GAS STATION!

THAT'S SOME CRAZY LUCK!



POTTY!

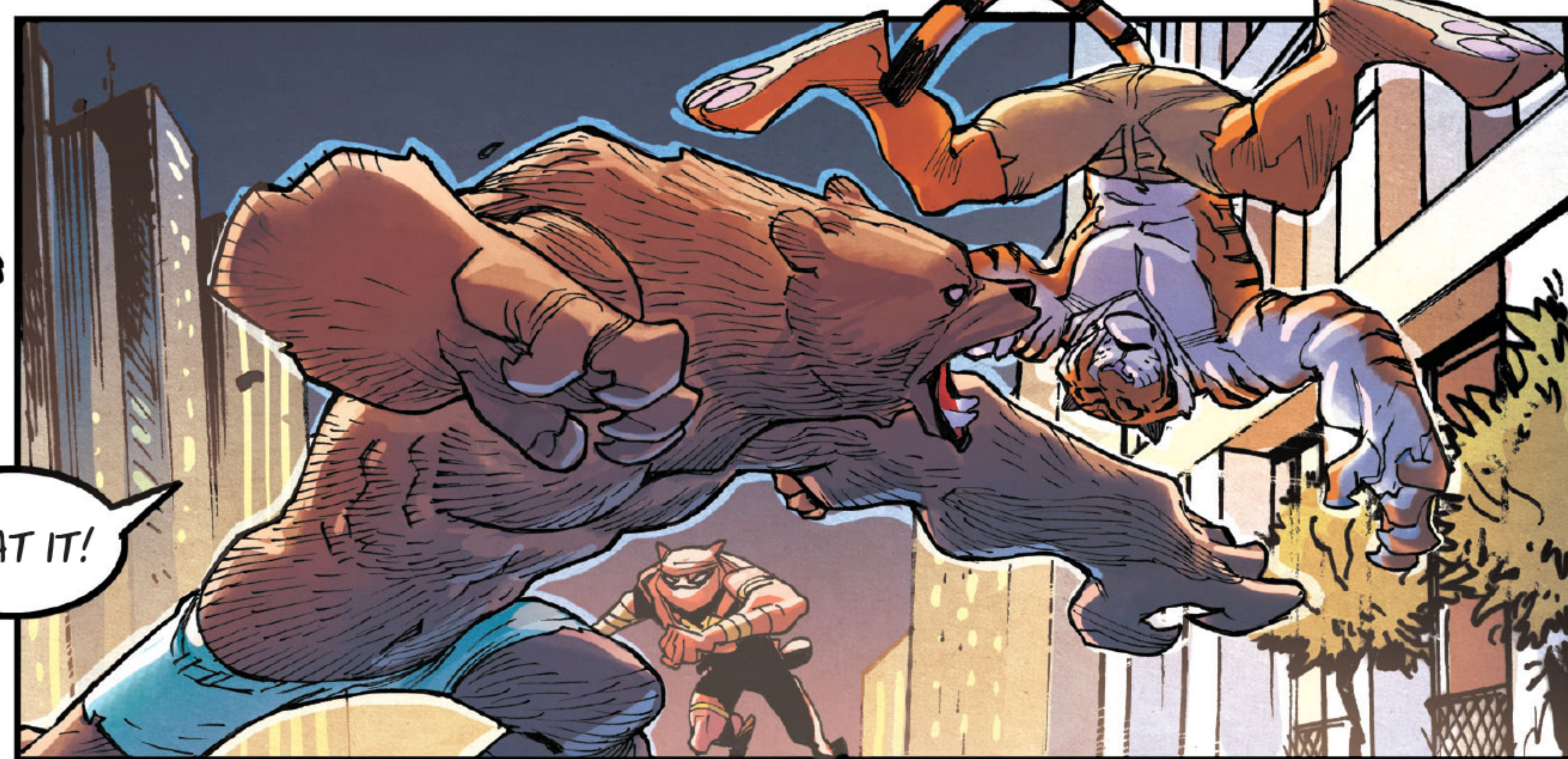
MORE STRANGE STORIES COMING OUT OF DETROIT...

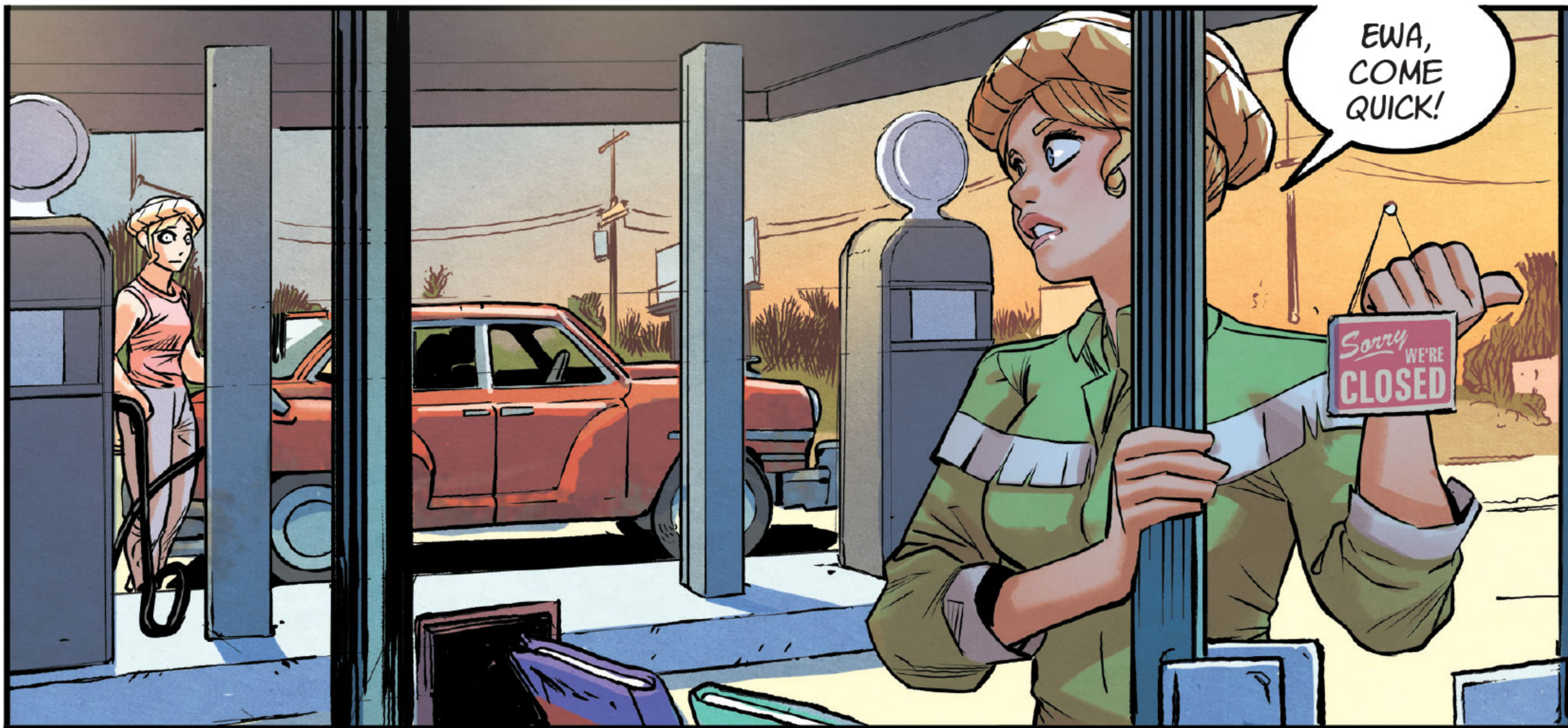


ANGEL?

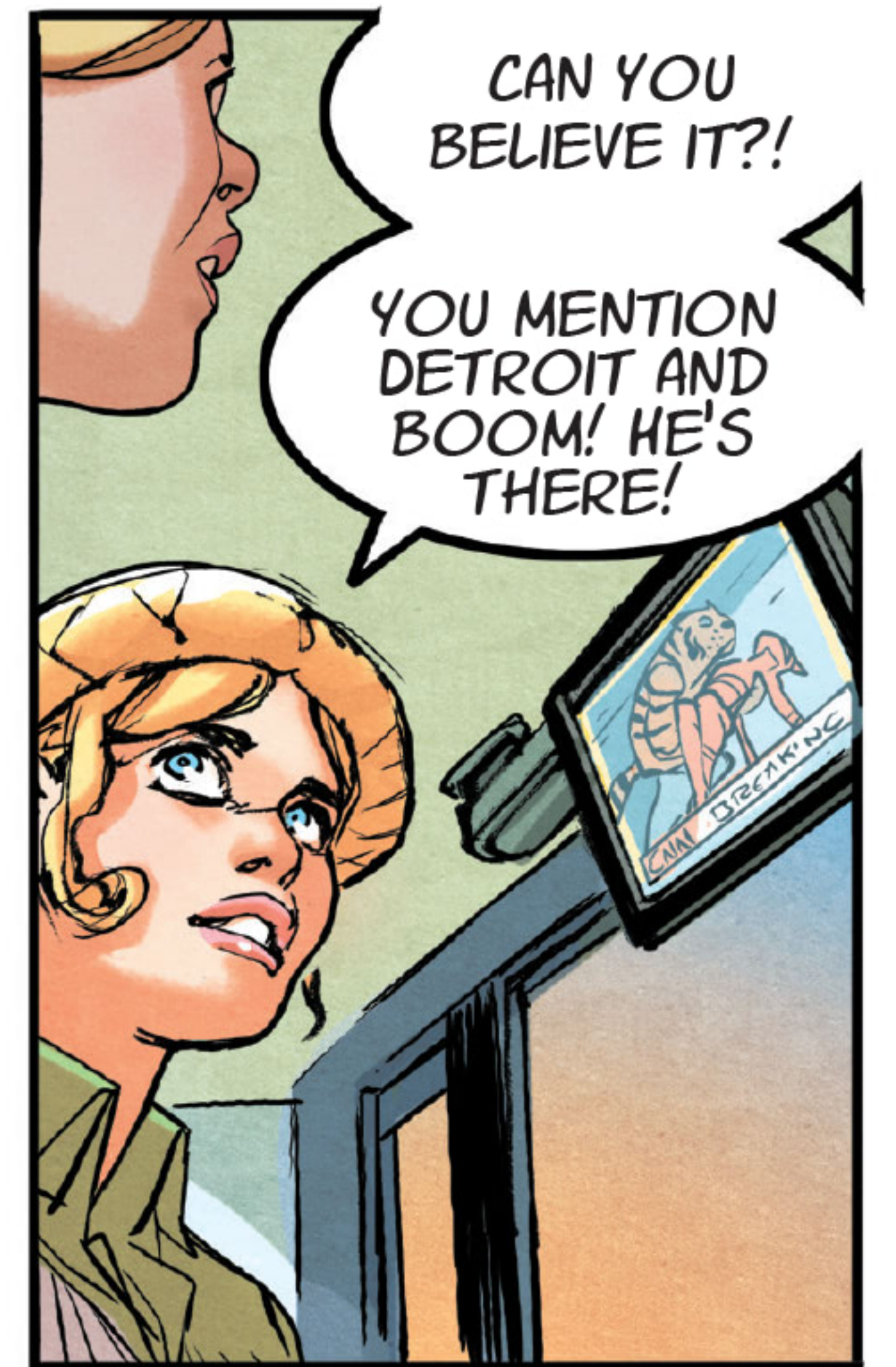
...AND NOW WE HAVE LIVE FOOTAGE OF A BATTLE BETWEEN THE KLAU AND WHAT APPEARS TO BE A... BEAR?

OFFICIALS HAVE IDENTIFIED THE VIGILANTE AS THE SAME ONE WHO HAD BEEN REPORTED IN CHICAGO SOME TIME AGO...



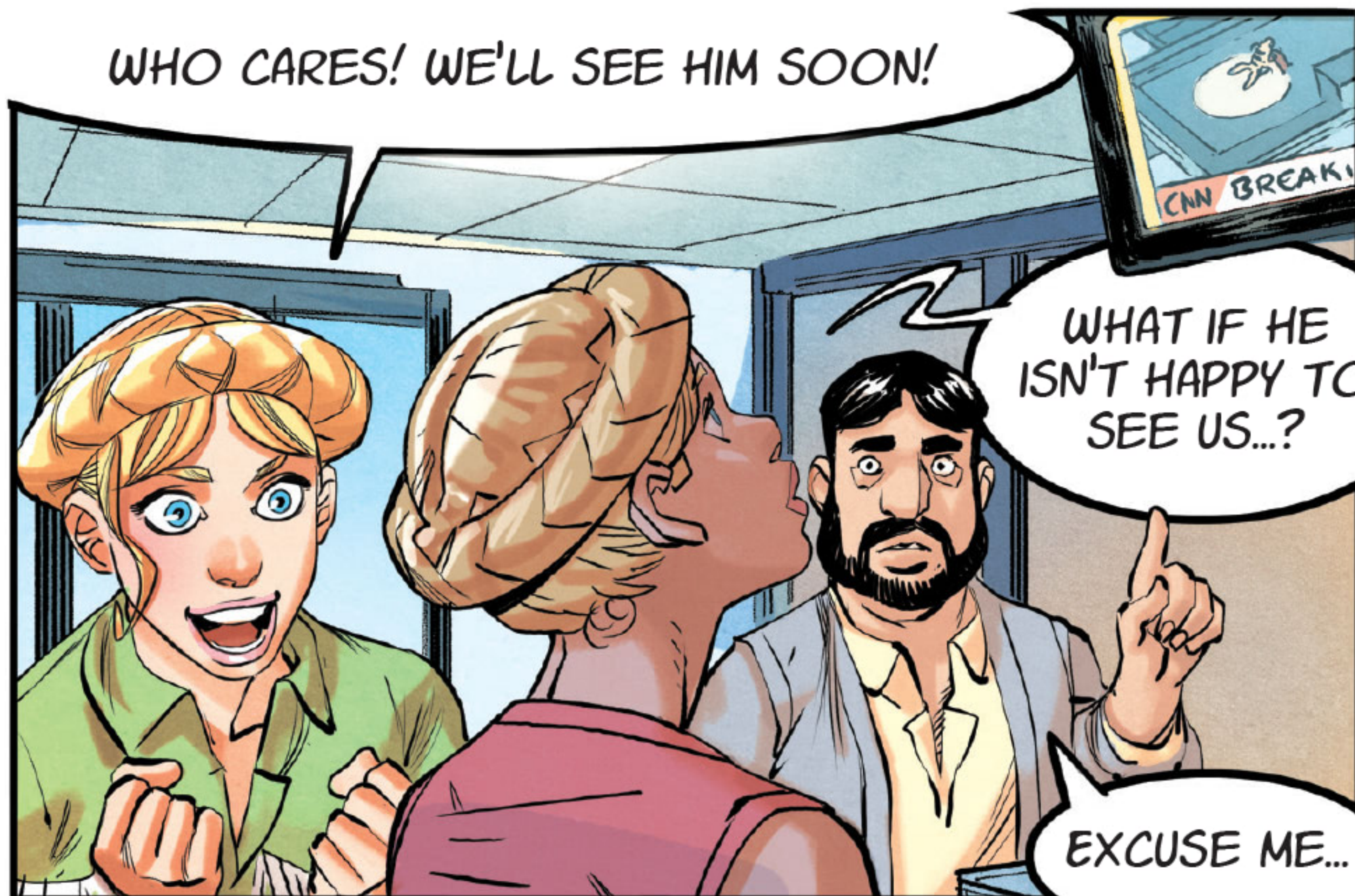


EWA,
COME
QUICK!



CAN YOU
BELIEVE IT?!
YOU MENTION
DETROIT AND
BOOM! HE'S
THERE!

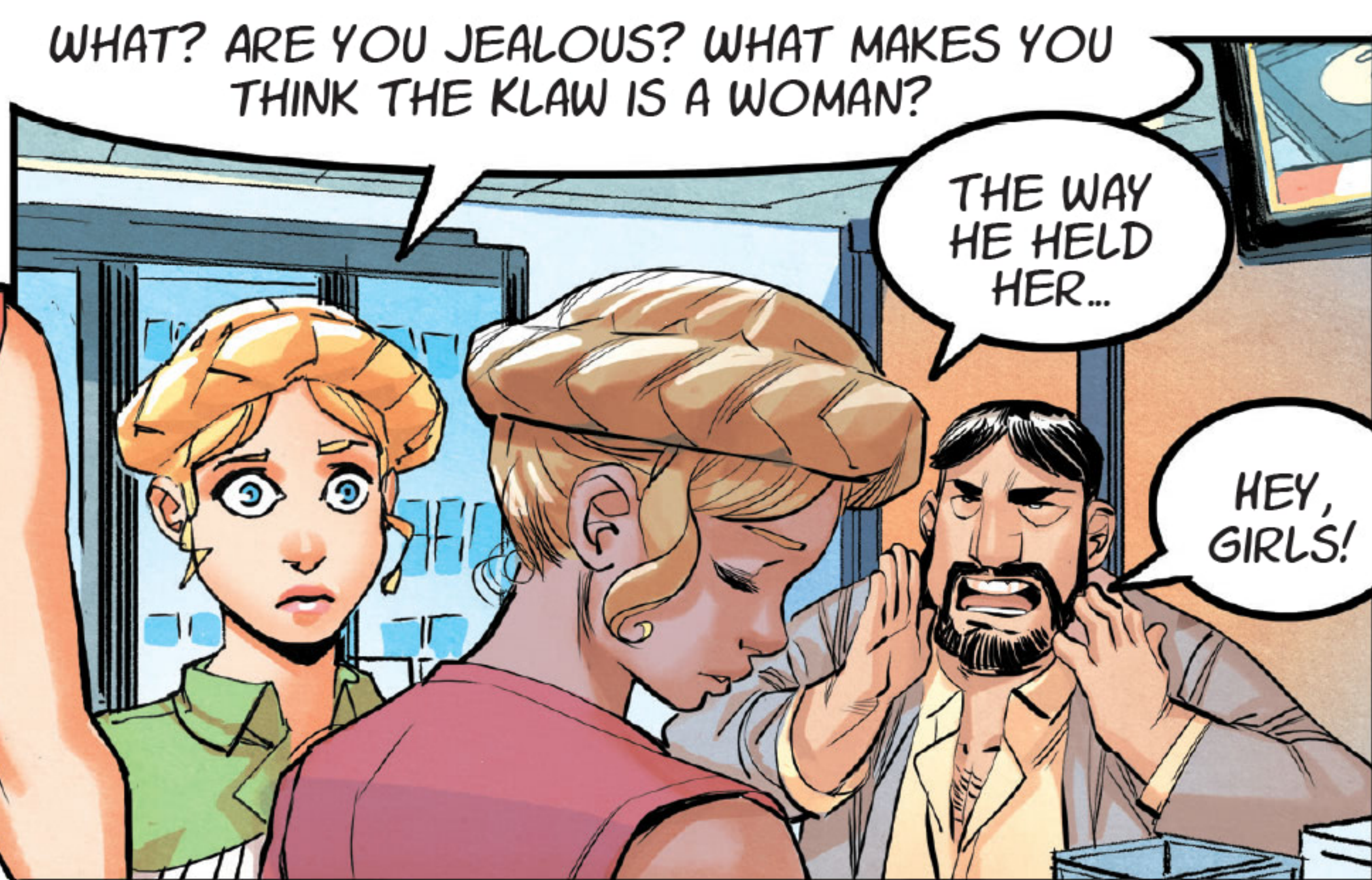
THAT'S... CRAZY.
HOW ARE THERE
TWO OF HIM?
BOTH THE TIGER
AND THE KLAW...?



WHO CARES! WE'LL SEE HIM SOON!

WHAT IF HE
ISN'T HAPPY TO
SEE US...?

EXCUSE ME...



WHAT? ARE YOU JEALOUS? WHAT MAKES YOU
THINK THE KLAW IS A WOMAN?

THE WAY
HE HELD
HER...

HEY,
GIRLS!

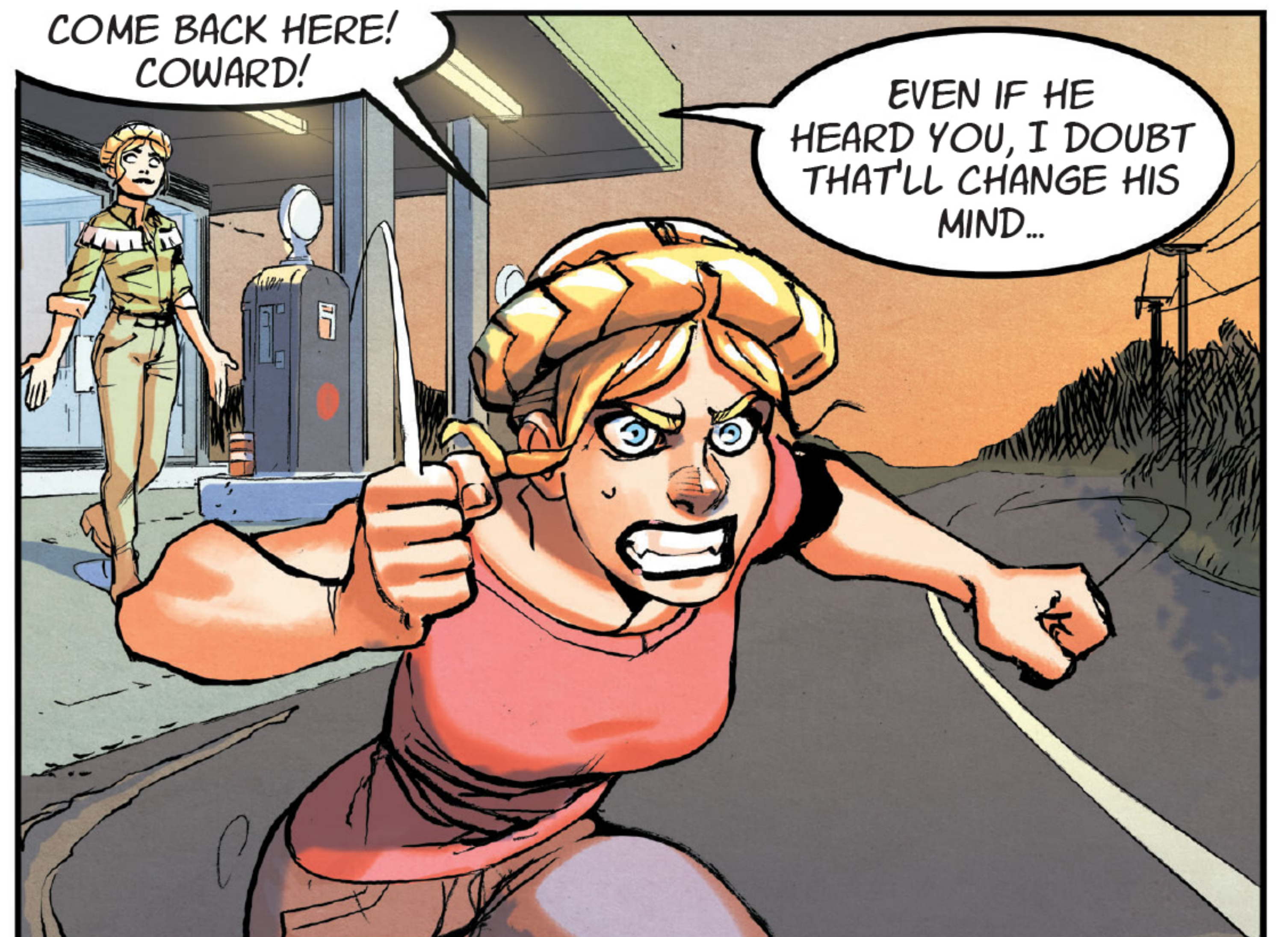


WHAT?! YOU TRYIN' TO GET OUR
PHONE NUMBERS?!

UH, NO... BUT I THINK
YOUR FRIEND IS TAKING OFF!

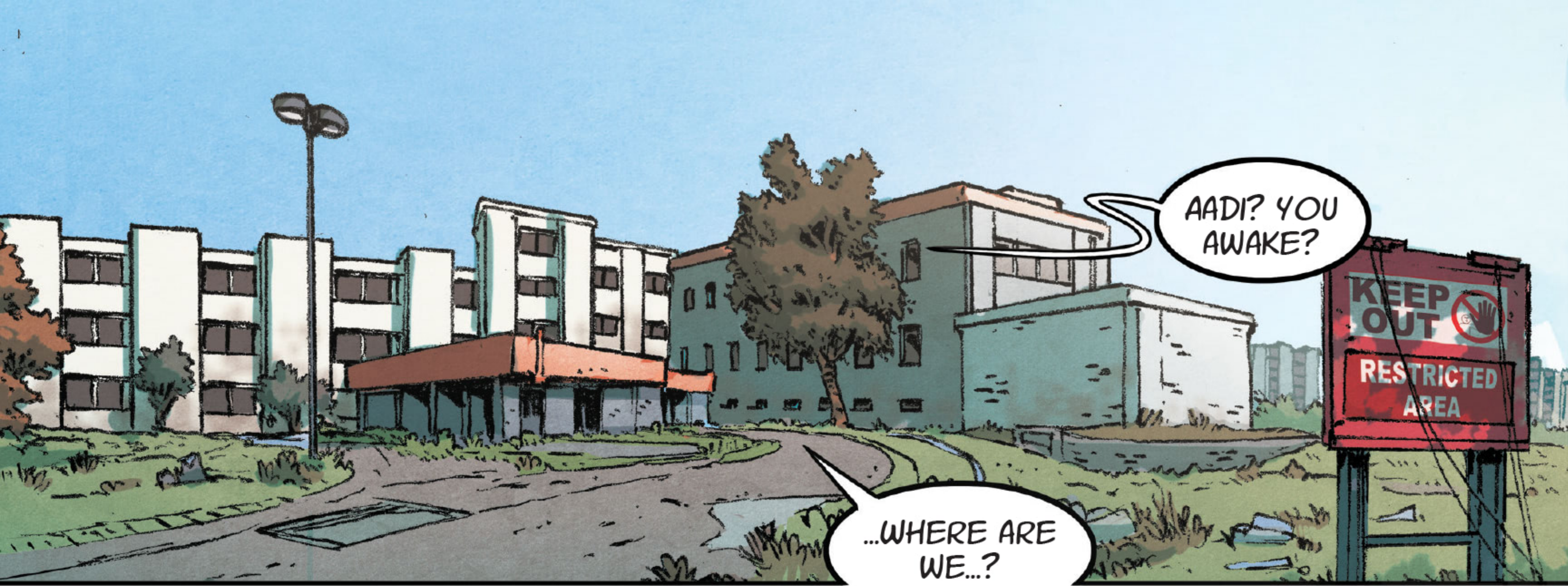


SON
OF A...



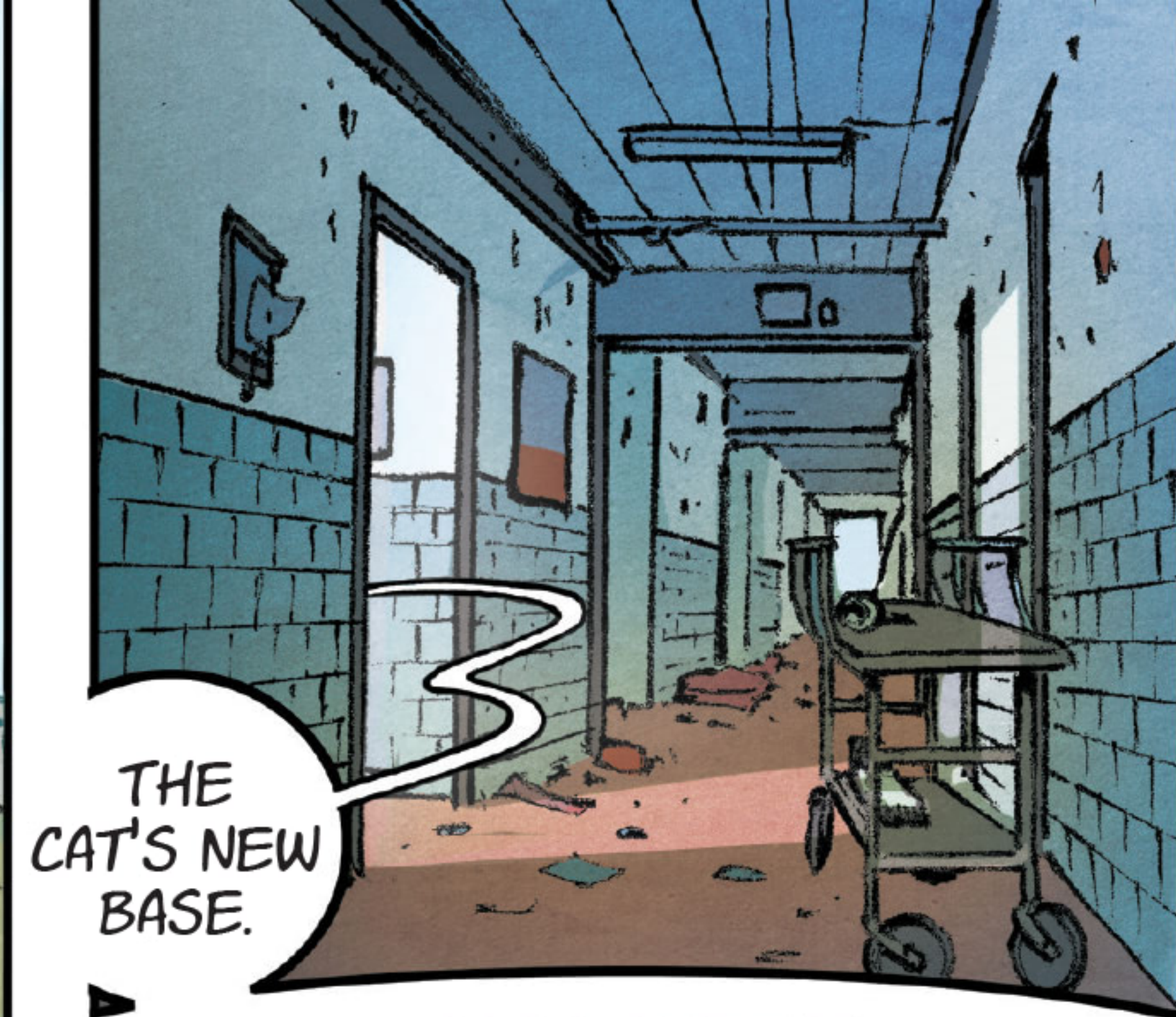
COME BACK HERE!
COWARD!

EVEN IF HE
HEARD YOU, I DOUBT
THAT'LL CHANGE HIS
MIND...



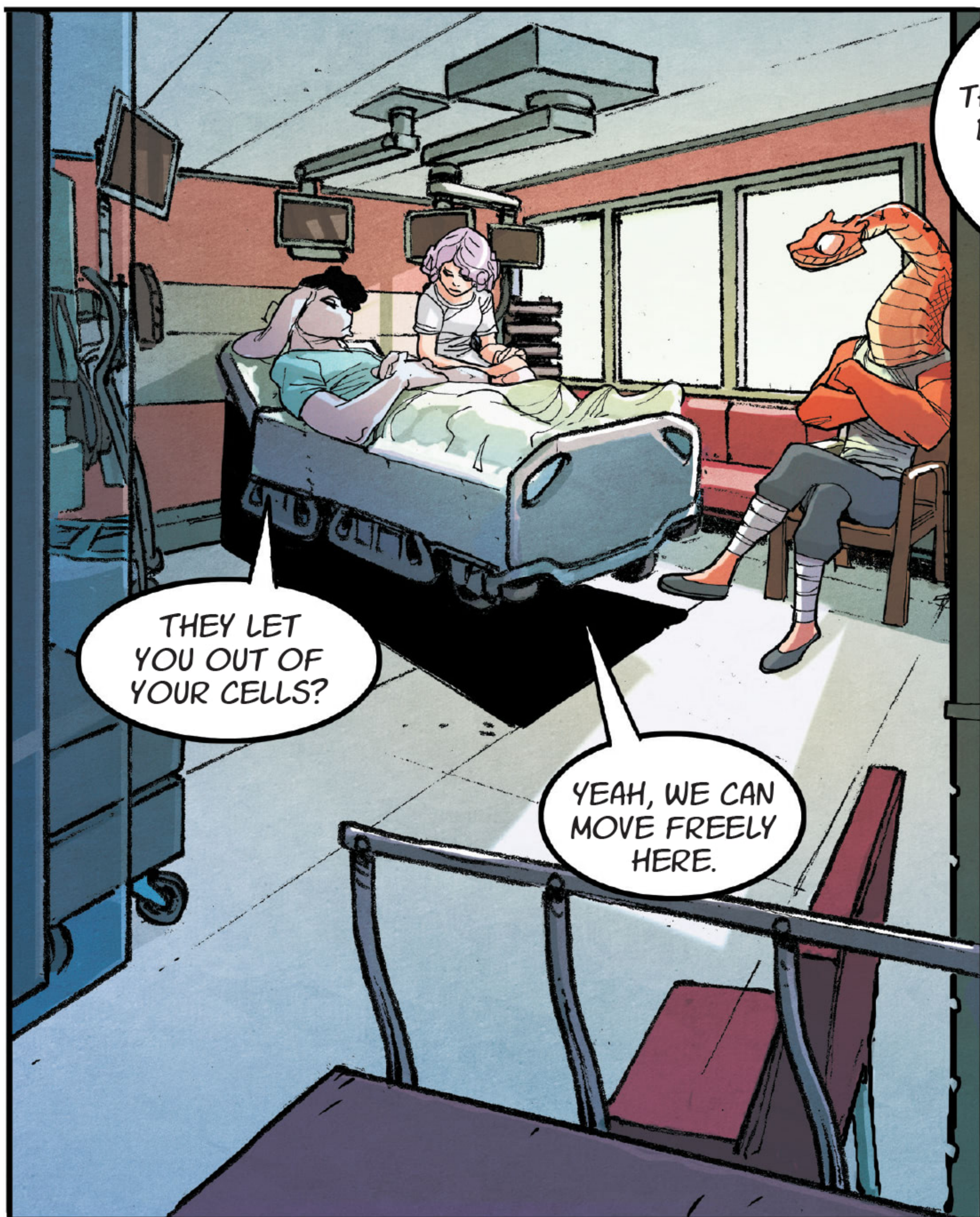
AADI? YOU AWAKE?

...WHERE ARE WE...?



THE CAT'S NEW BASE.

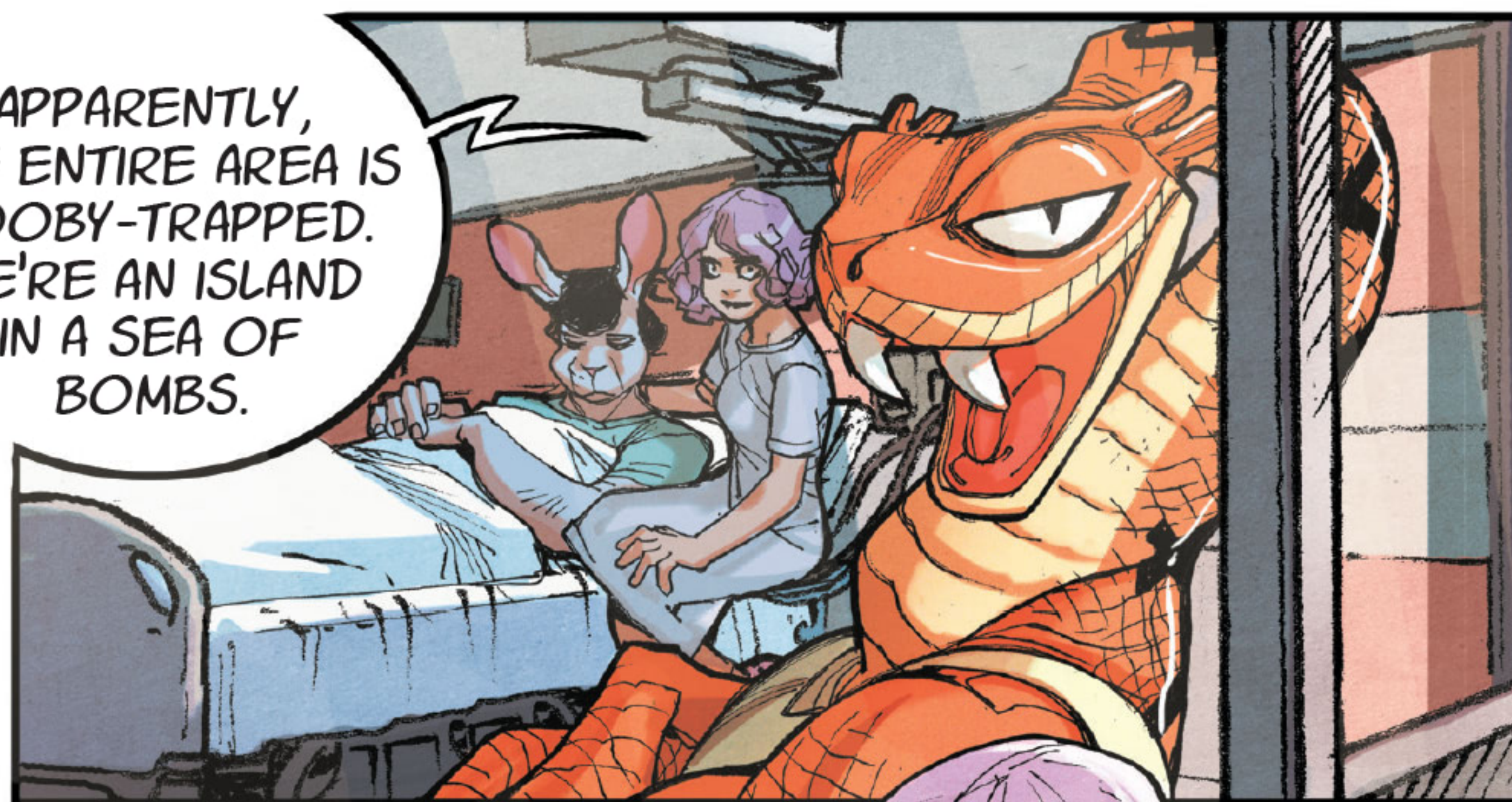
WHICH HAPPENS TO BE AN OLD HOSPITAL.



THEY LET YOU OUT OF YOUR CELLS?

YEAH, WE CAN MOVE FREELY HERE.

APPARENTLY, THE ENTIRE AREA IS BOOBY-TRAPPED. WE'RE AN ISLAND IN A SEA OF BOMBS.



CAREFUL, YOU'RE STILL WEAK.

WHERE'S ANGEL?



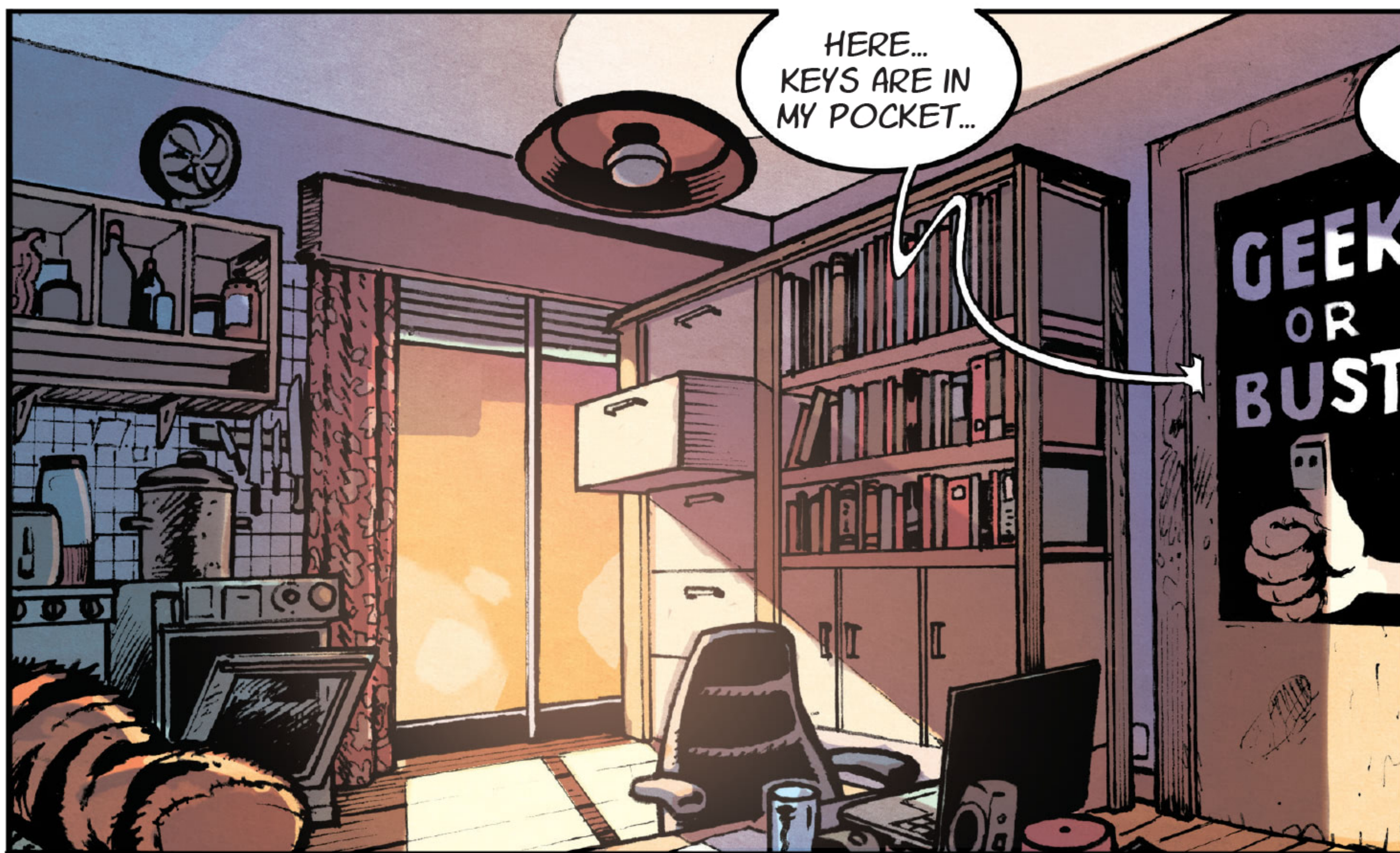
HE DITCHED US. HE ESCAPED WITHOUT LOOKING BACK.

HE'LL... BE BACK.



NO, THEO'S RIGHT. HE CHOSE TO FLEE INSTEAD OF STAY AND FIGHT.

IT'S UP TO US TO GET OUT OF HERE ON OUR OWN.



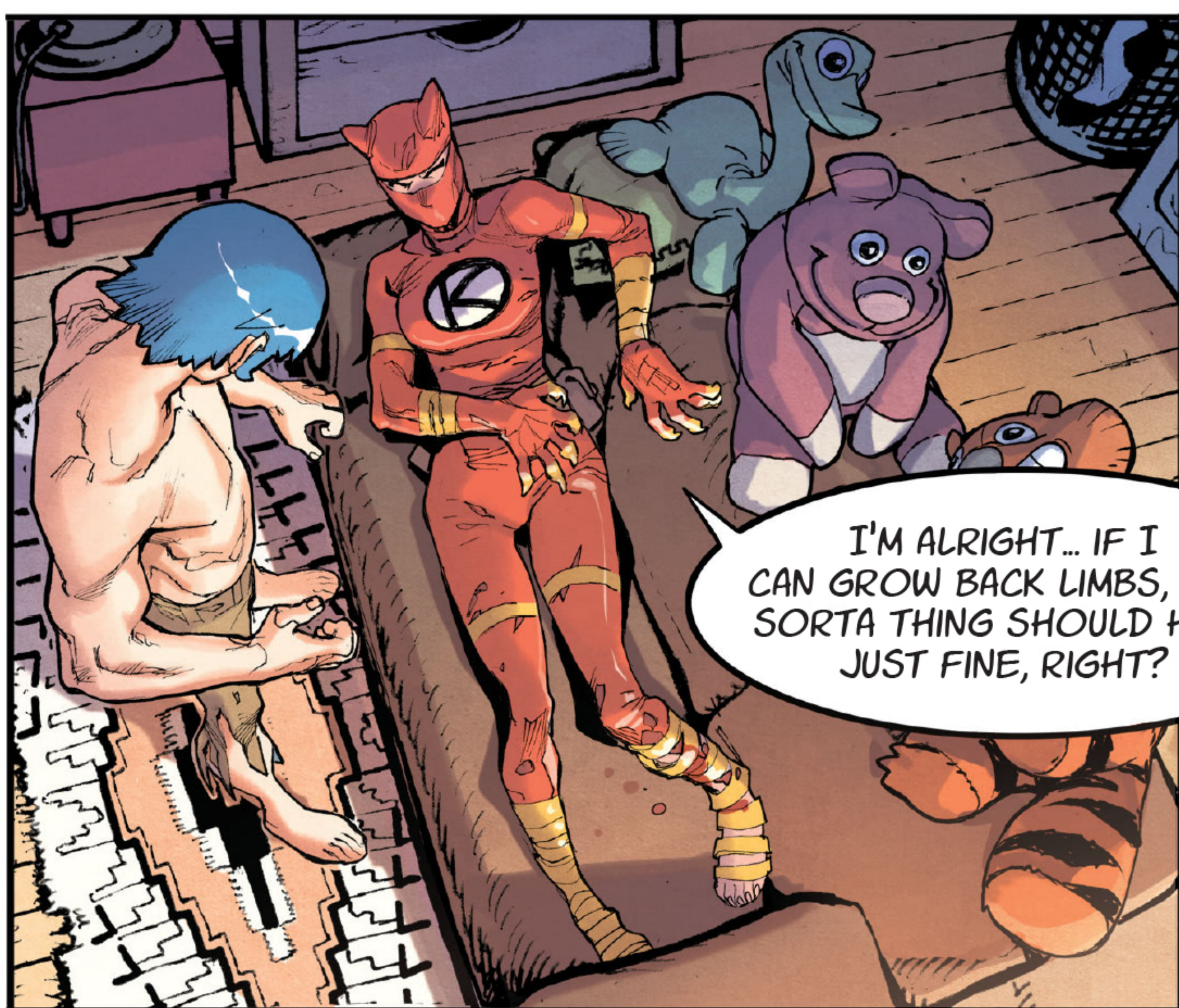
HERE...
KEYS ARE IN
MY POCKET...

GEEK
OR
BUST

COUCH...
PLEASE...



'KAY.
YOU
OKAY?



I'M ALRIGHT... IF I
CAN GROW BACK LIMBS, THIS
SORTA THING SHOULD HEAL
JUST FINE, RIGHT?



I DUNNO. THERE COULD BE A
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HEALING AND REGENERATION...



THEN
CUT OFF
MY LEG!



HAH. I THINK
WE'RE GOING TO
GET ALONG JUST
FINE...

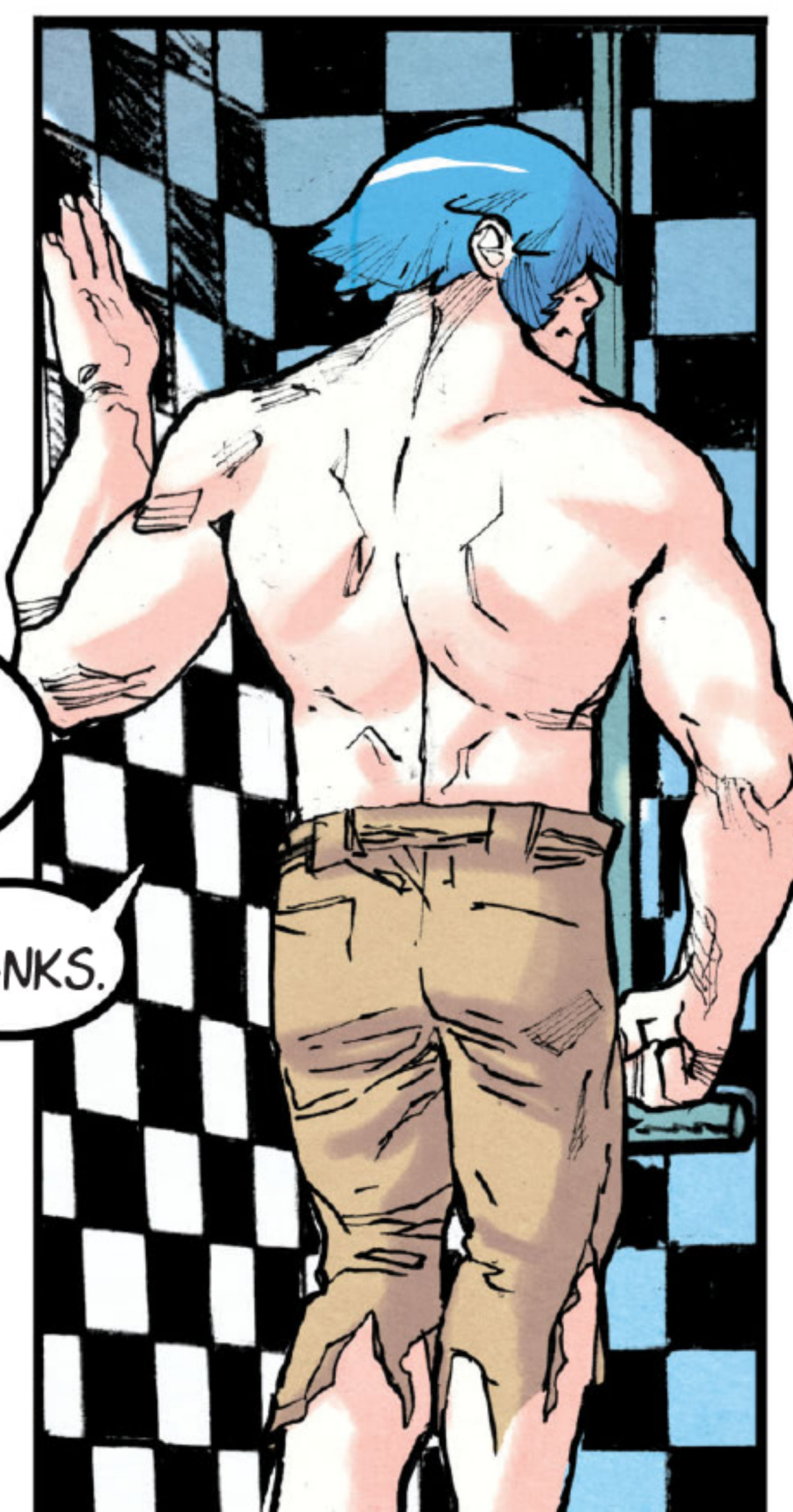
NOT UNLESS
YOU SHOWER
FIRST. YOU SMELL...
DUBIOUS.

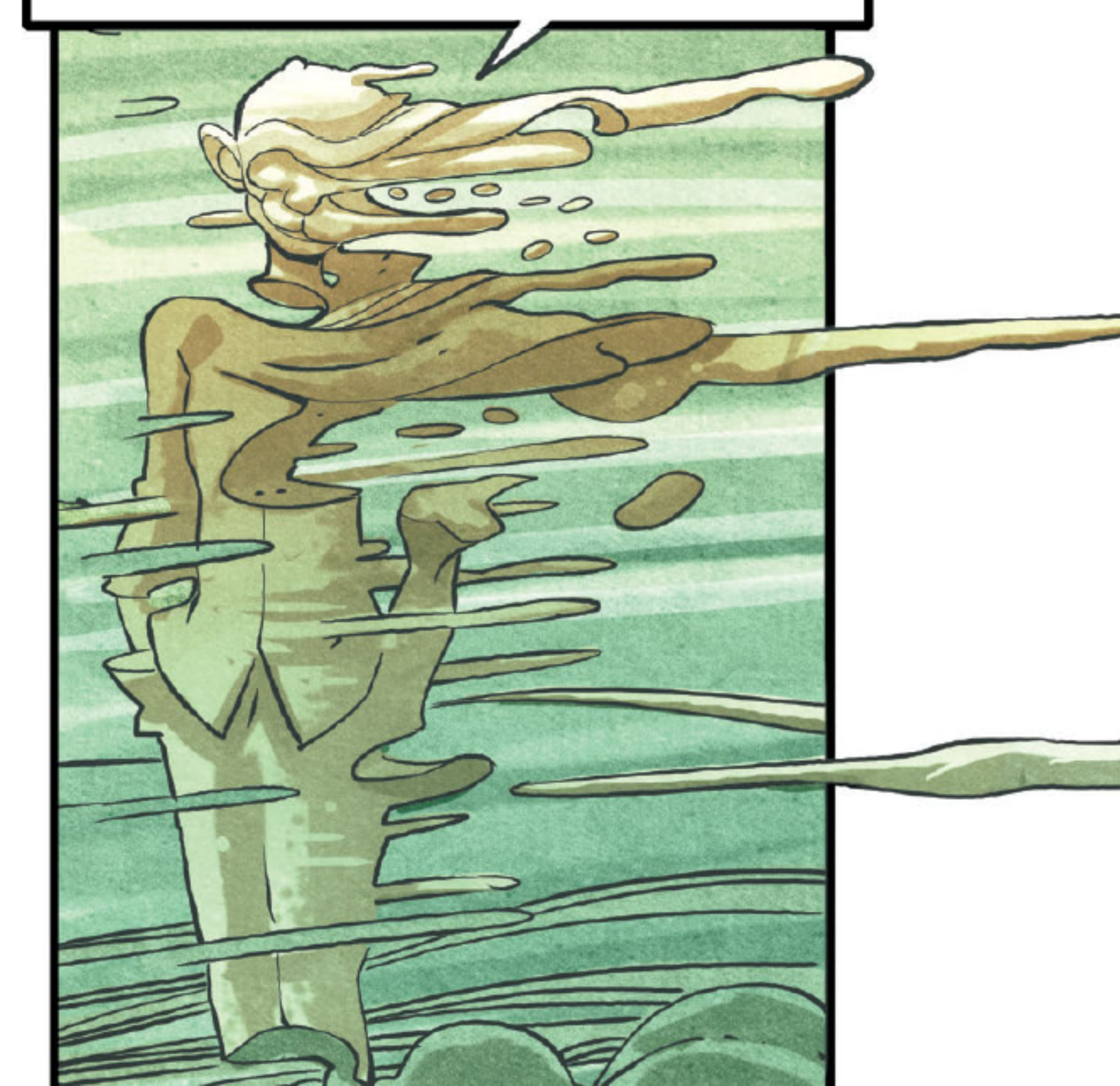
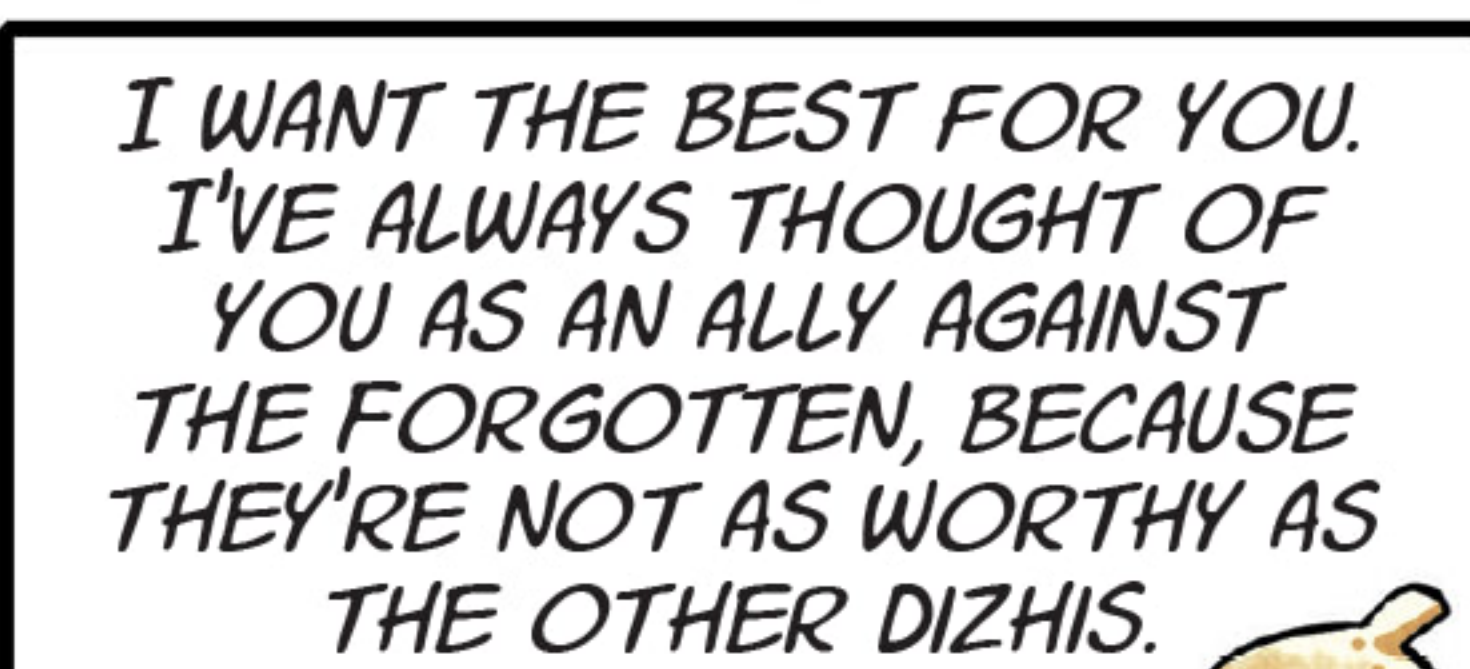
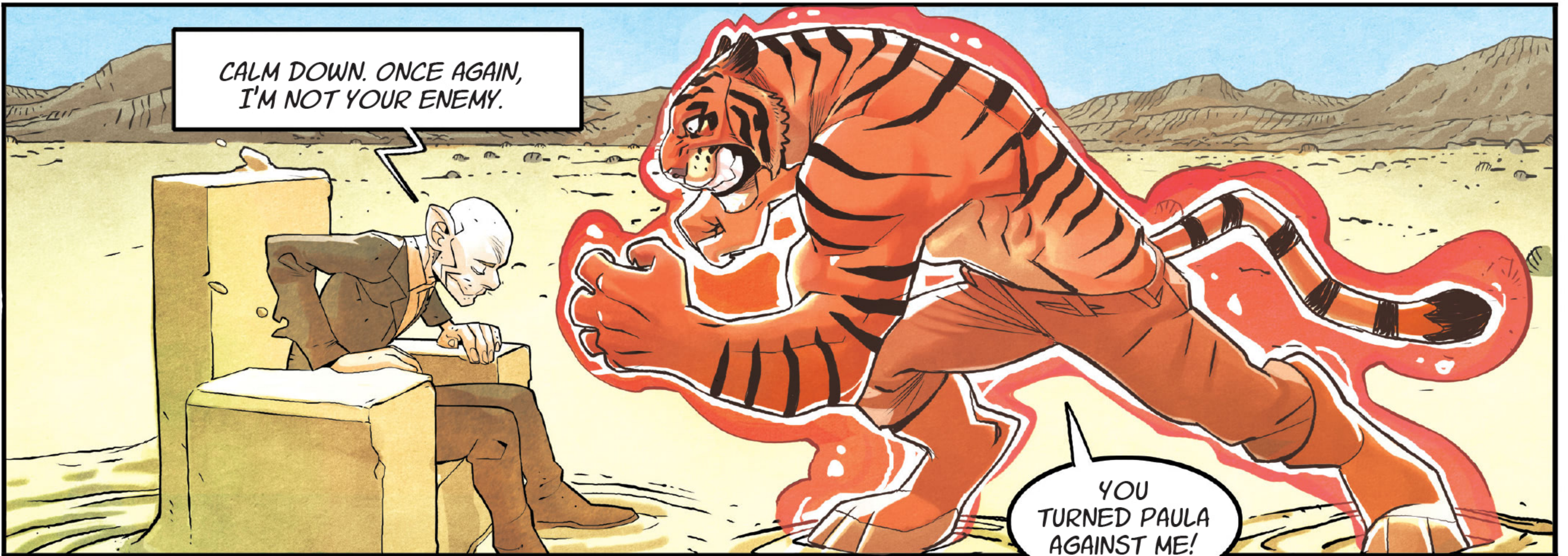
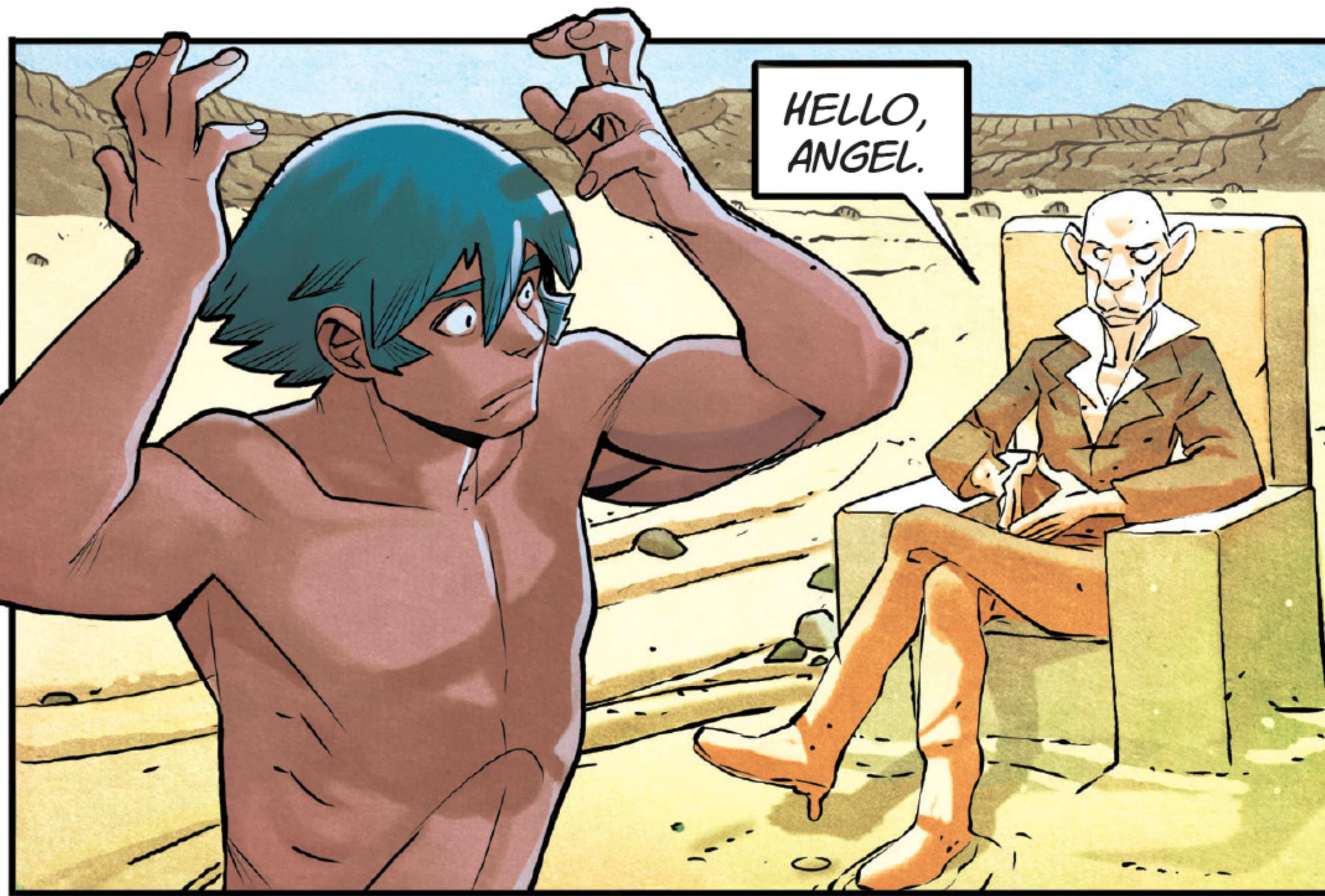
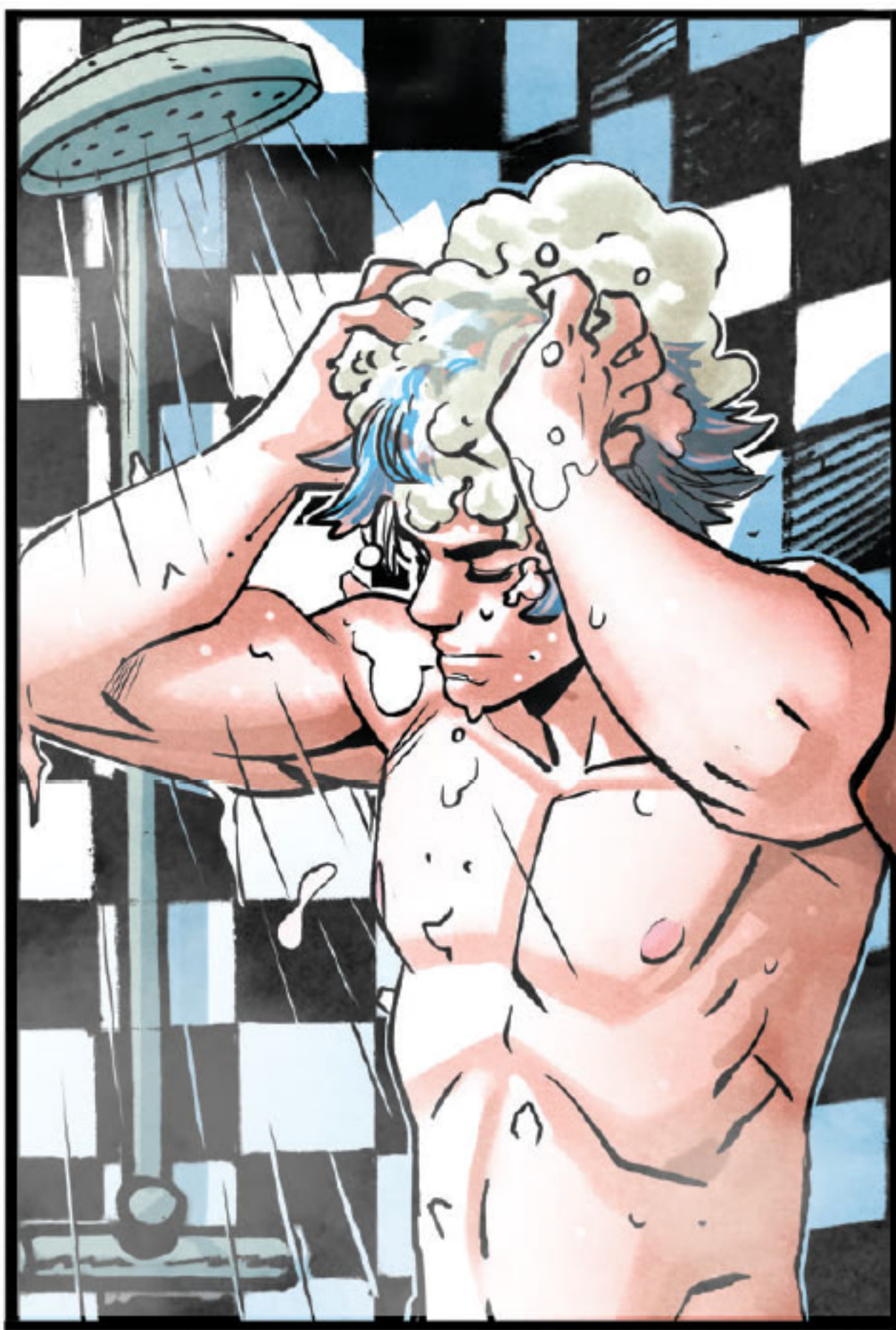
UGH.
YEAH.

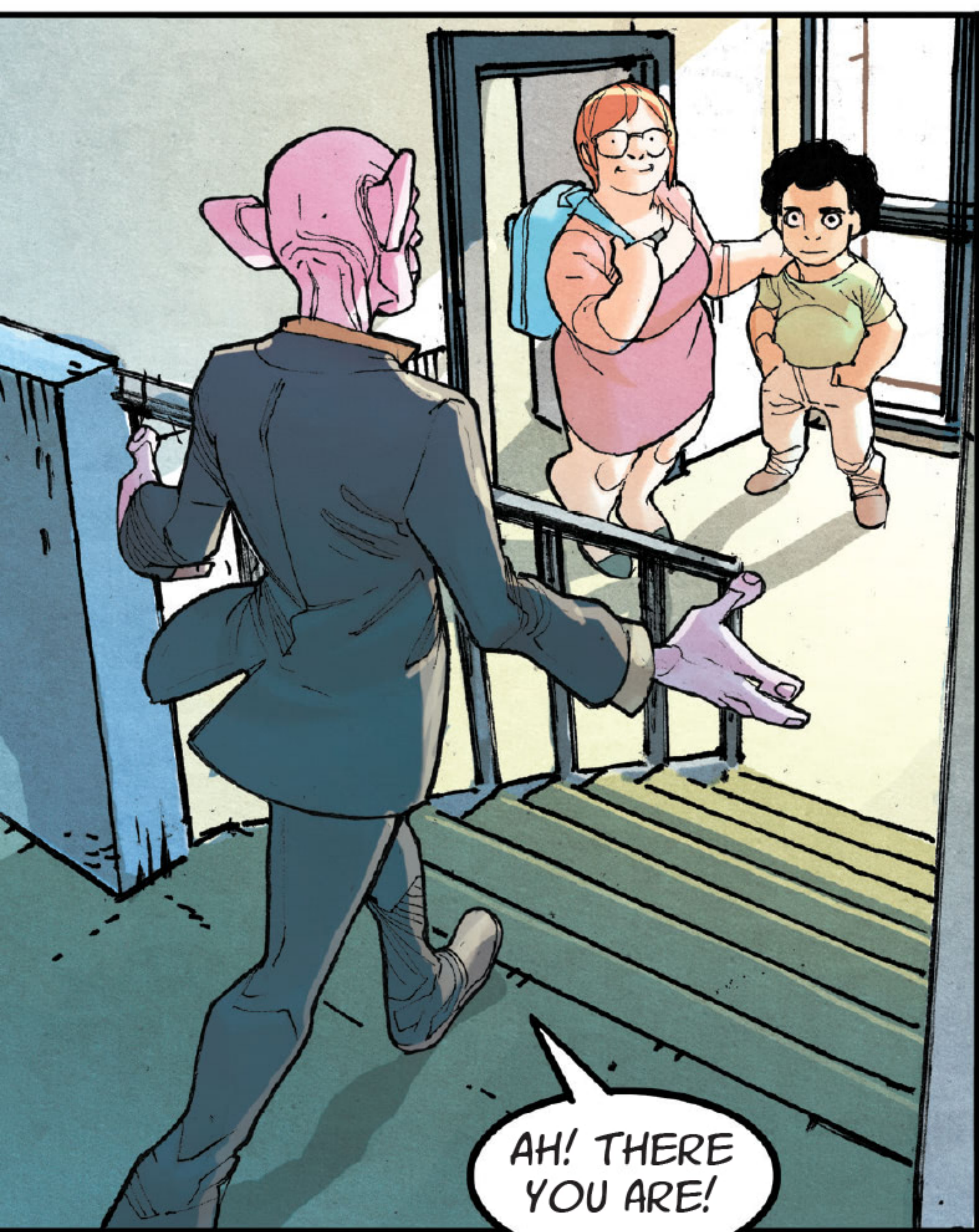


BATHROOM'S
THROUGH THE
BEDROOM.

THANKS.







AH! THERE YOU ARE!



SO?

IT ALL WENT WELL.

TIM DID GREAT!



YOU HAVE IT?

YEP!

TIM, YOU CAN GO TO YOUR ROOM. THERE'S A LITTLE PRESENT WAITING FOR YOU.



OH, YES...



...WELL DONE!



YEAH!



FIND JAMAL. DISCRETELY. I CAN'T WAIT TO TRY THIS.

WHY HIM?

BECAUSE I ENTERED HIS MIND WITHOUT HIM NOTICING, AND HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO DOUBTS ME...



PAULA?

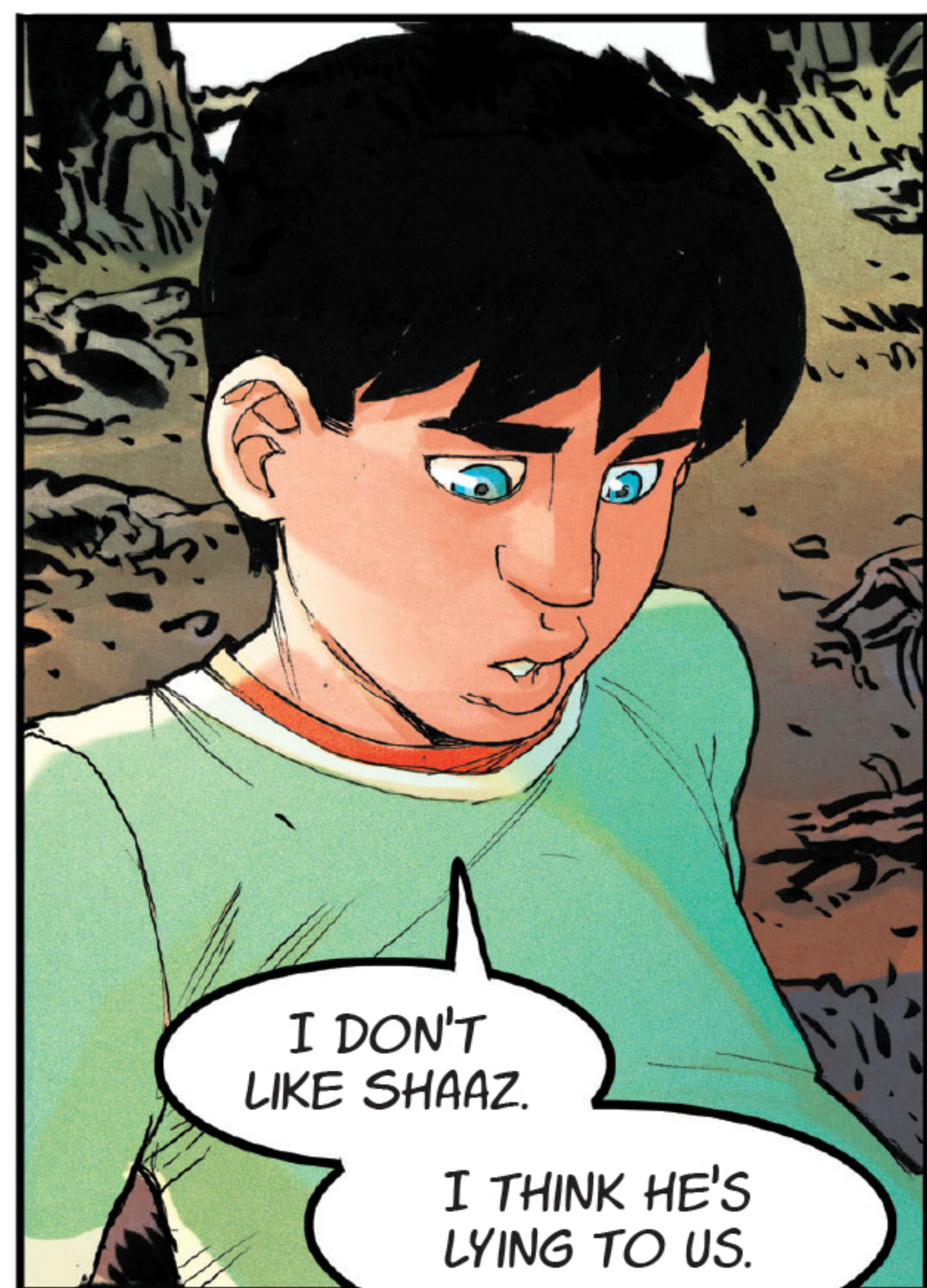


GO AWAY.
I WANNA BE ALONE.



DON'T
YOU LIKE IT
HERE?

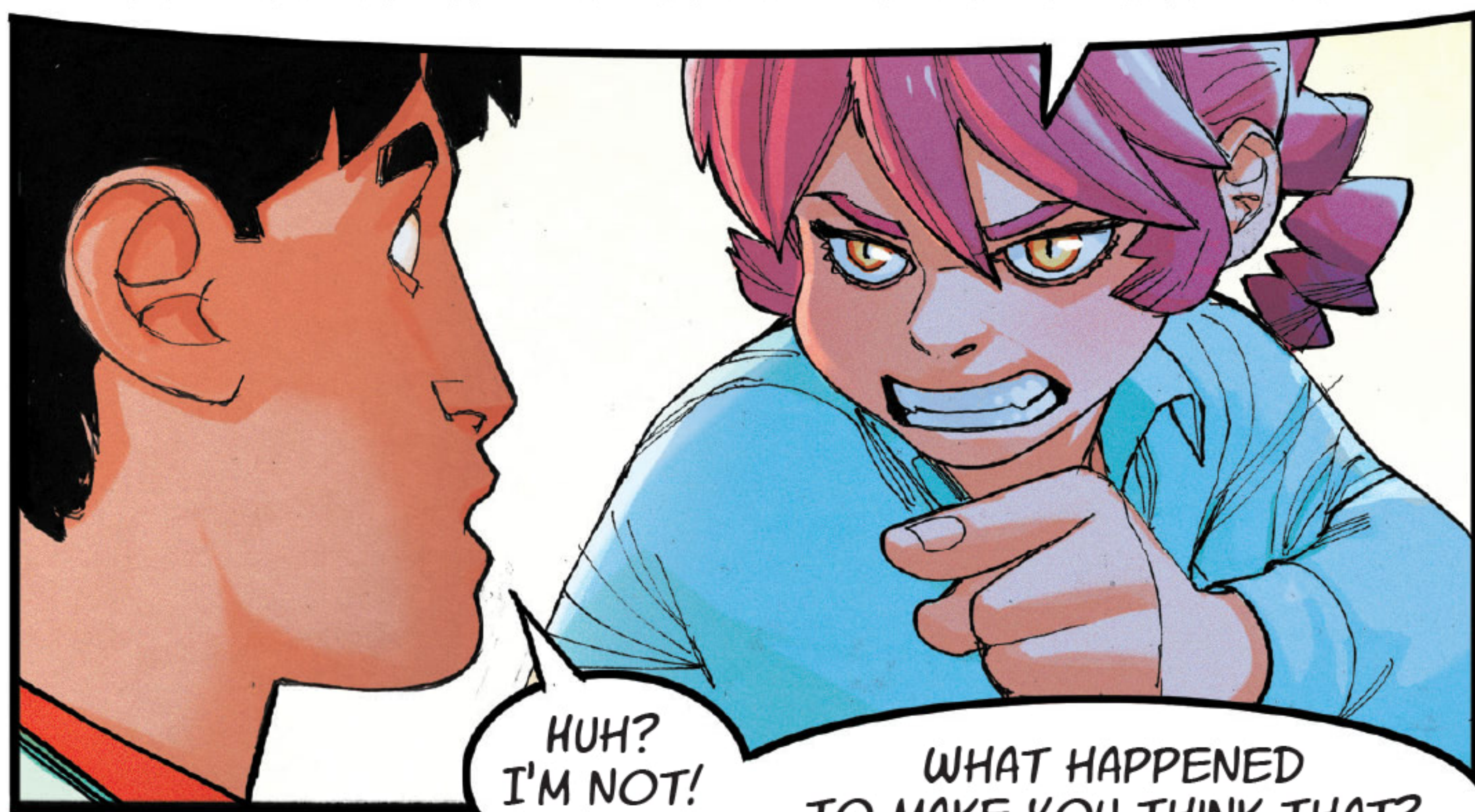
SHH! I SAID
I DON'T WANNA TALK!



I DON'T
LIKE SHAAZ.

I THINK HE'S
LYING TO US.

LISTEN, YOU'RE NICE AND ALL, BUT I DON'T WANNA TALK. AND
HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO TRICK ME?



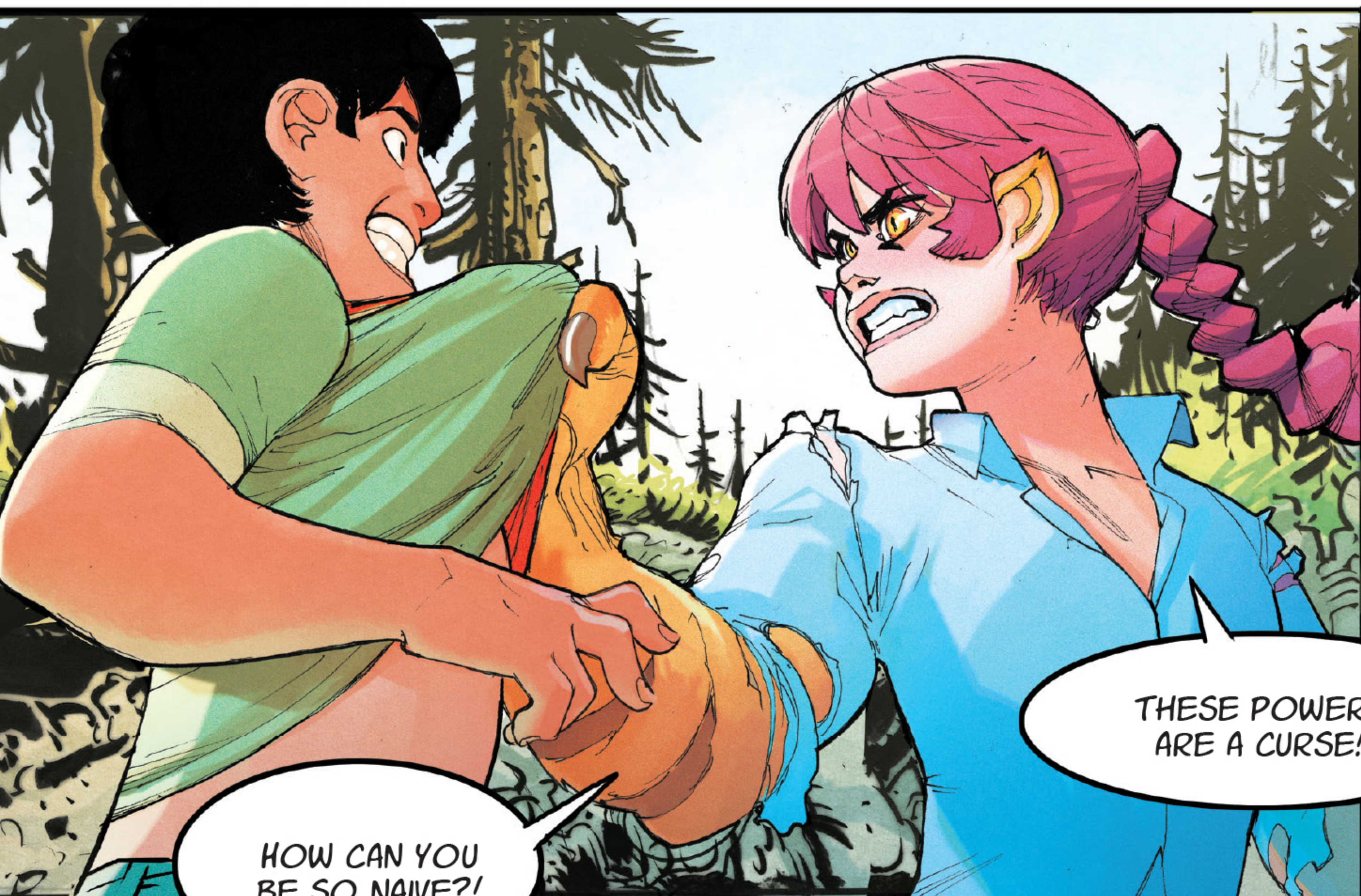
HUH?
I'M NOT!

WHAT HAPPENED
TO MAKE YOU THINK THAT?



ARE YOU KIDDING?
YOU REALLY WANNA
KNOW WHAT I'VE GONE
THROUGH?!

DON'T GET MAD!
I JUST WANTED...



HOW CAN YOU
BE SO NAIVE?!

THESE POWERS
ARE A CURSE!



PAULA!
STOP!

LET HIM
GO.

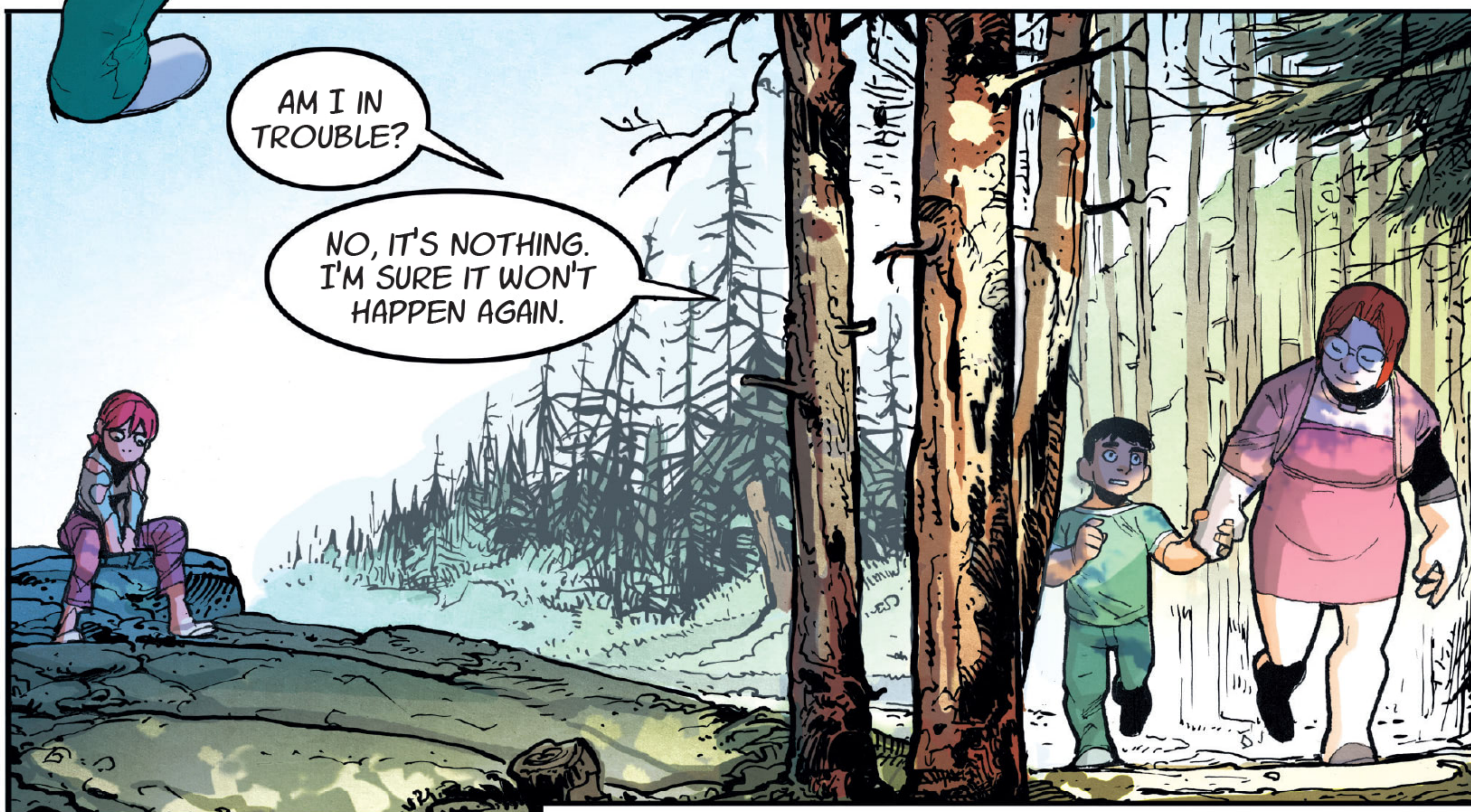


GOOD.

JAMAL, COME WITH ME.

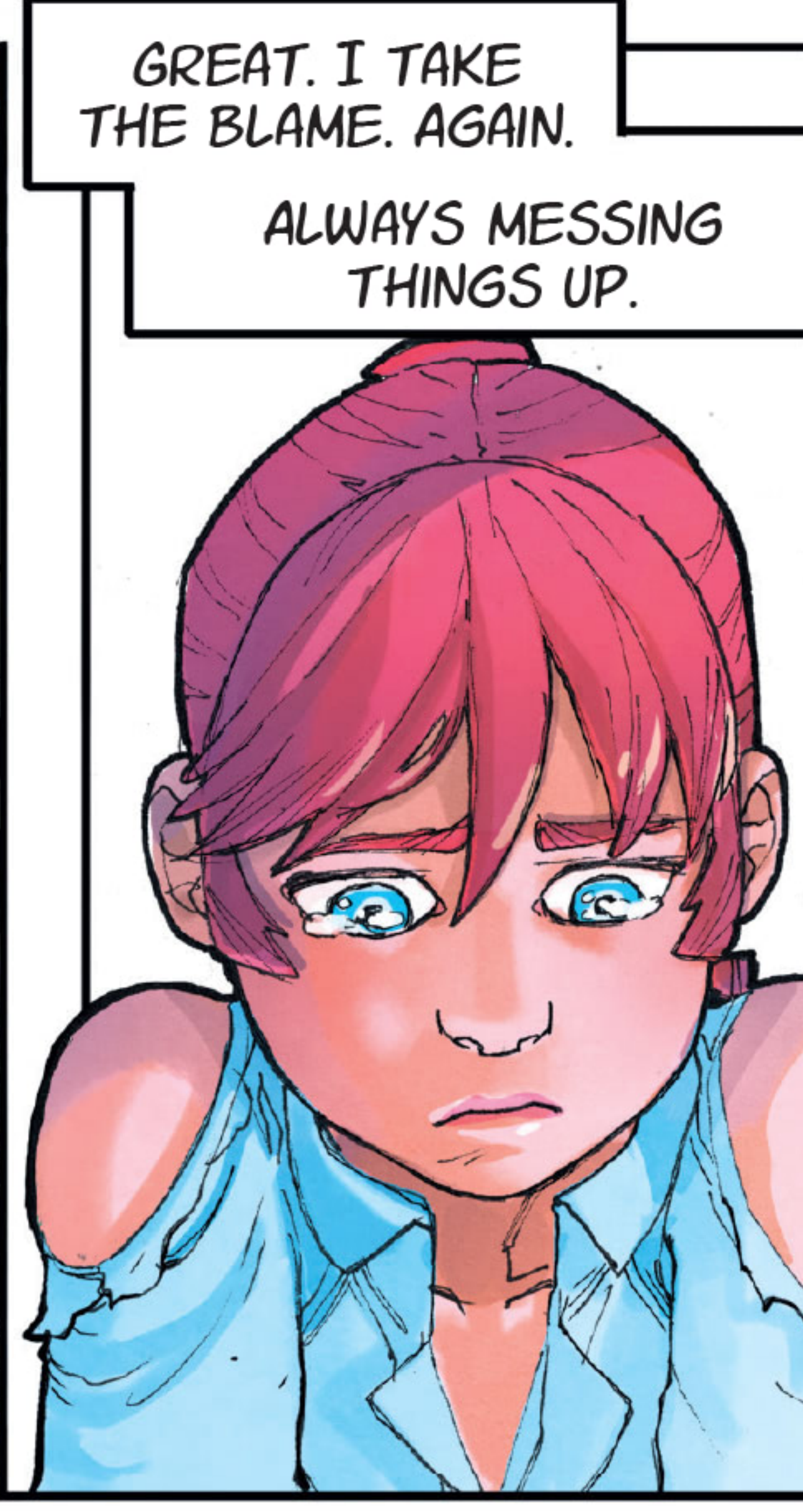


WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER, YOUNG LADY.



AM I IN TROUBLE?

NO, IT'S NOTHING. I'M SURE IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.



GREAT. I TAKE THE BLAME. AGAIN.

ALWAYS MESSING THINGS UP.

SHOULD I APOLOGIZE TO ANGEL? I MEAN, HE WAS ALWAYS NICE TO ME. HE HELPED ME AND DAD WHEN NO ONE ELSE WOULD...

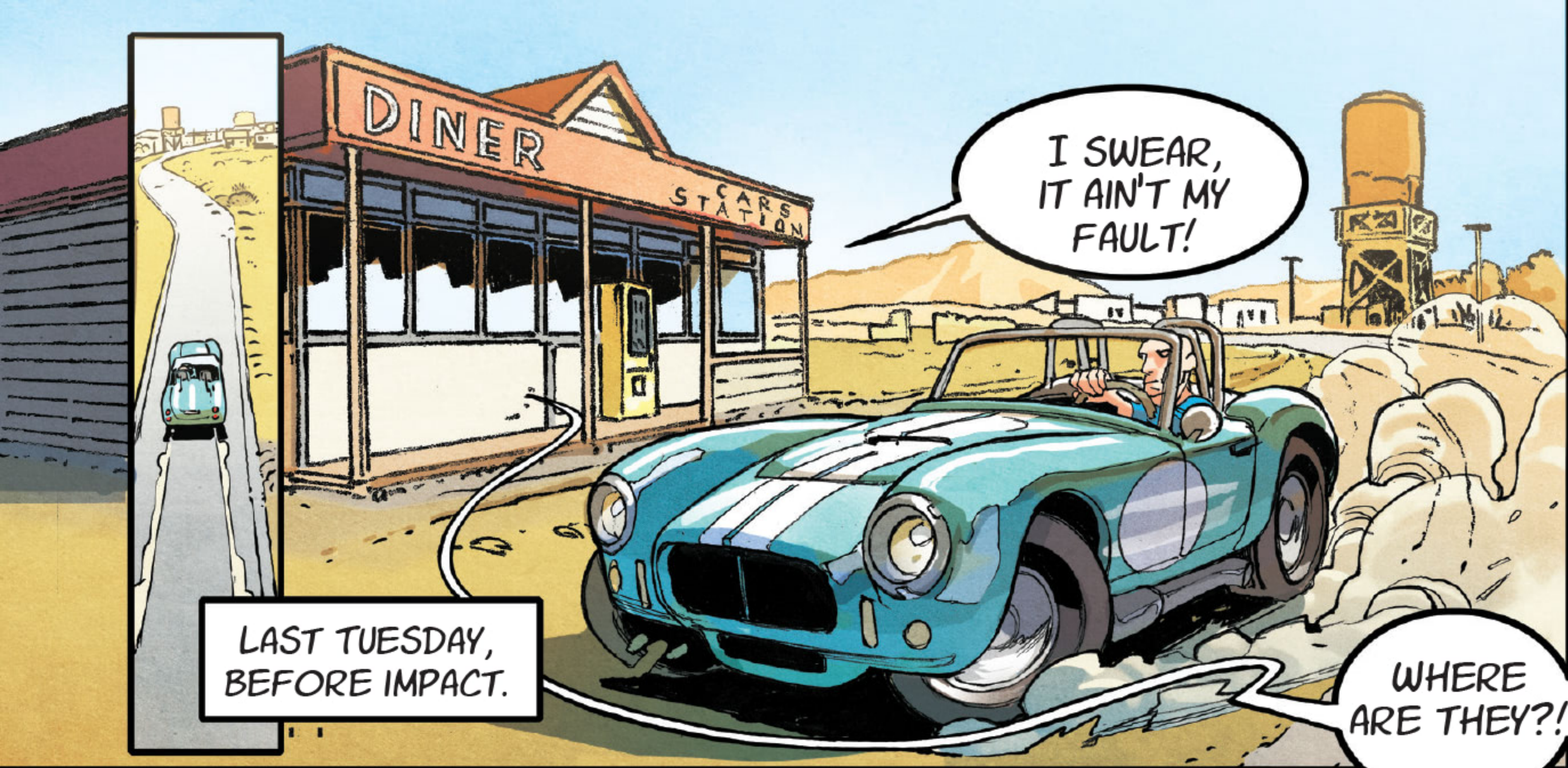
JUST BECAUSE HE WANTED TO SHARE HIS DIZHI, HE'S A BAD GUY? HE ALWAYS TOLD ME THE DIZHI CHOOSES THE PERSON...

WHAT IF JAMAL'S RIGHT? WHAT IF SHAAZ IS TRYING TO TRICK ME?

ARRRGH. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK! I LET JUNE GET HURT ON THE TRAIN... THAT MAKES ME AS BAD AS THE OTHERS...

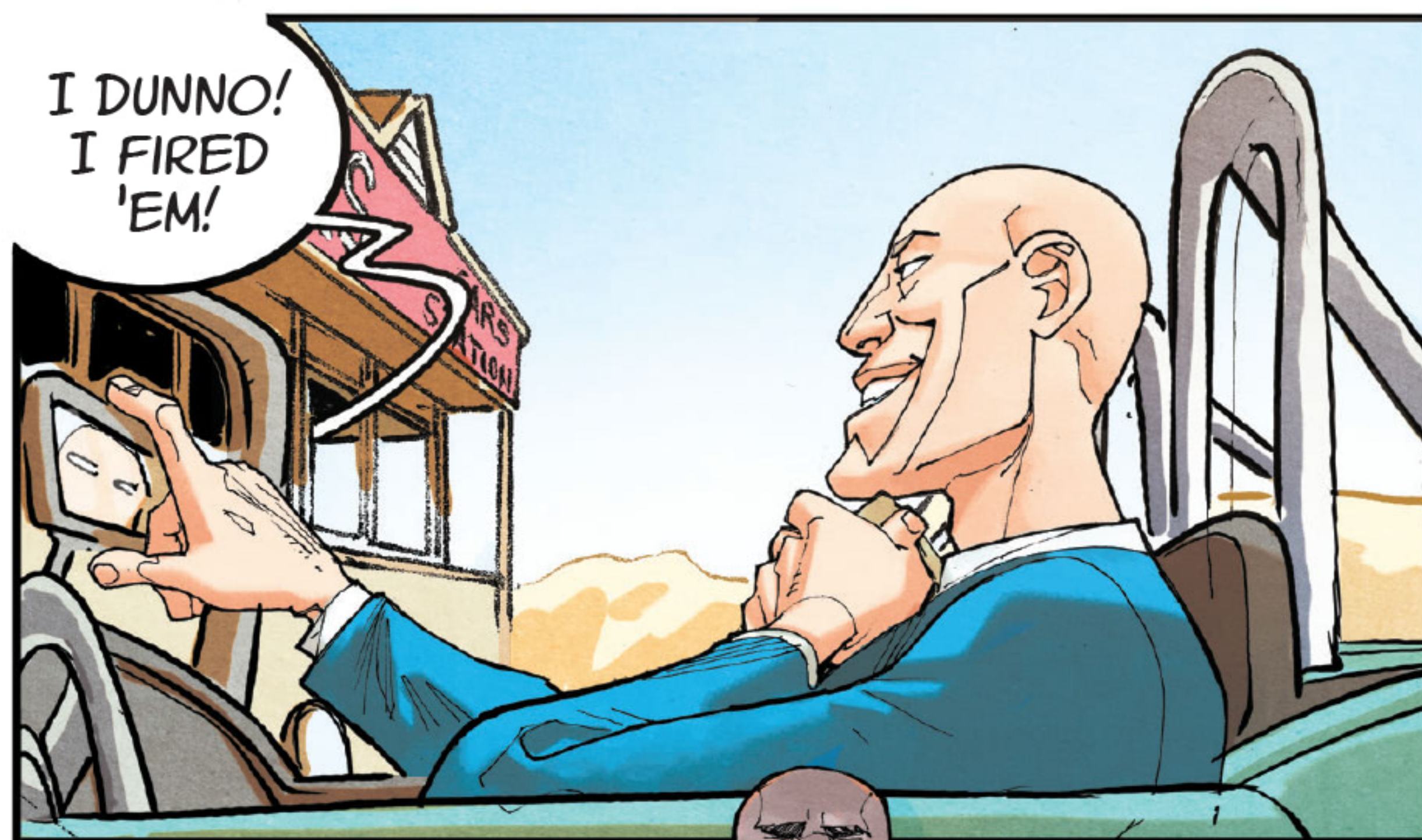
...AND DAD HAS NO IDEA WHERE I AM...



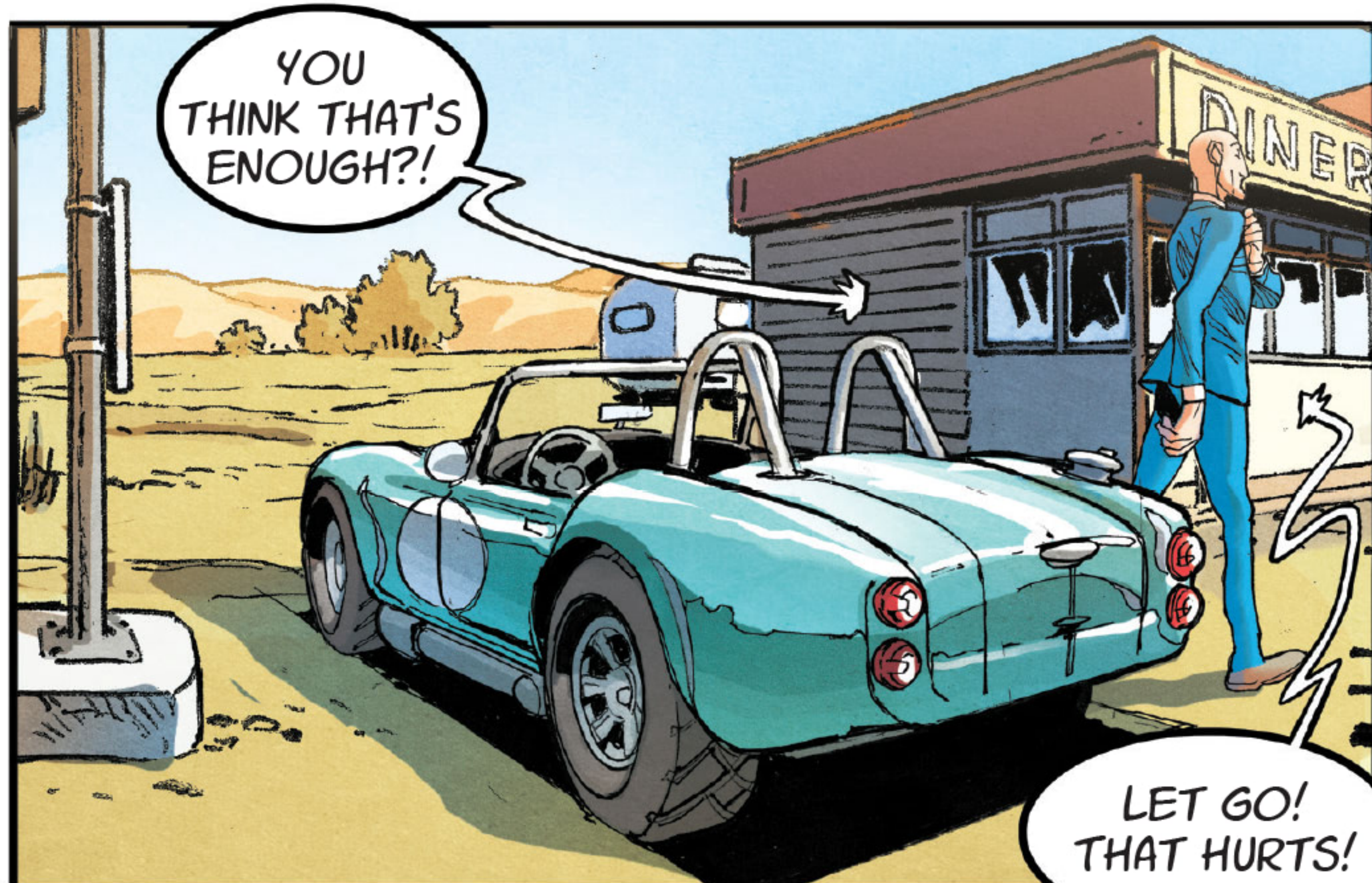


LAST TUESDAY,
BEFORE IMPACT.

WHERE
ARE THEY?!



I DUNNO!
I FIRED
'EM!



YOU
THINK THAT'S
ENOUGH?!

LET GO!
THAT HURTS!



HELLO?



WHO'S HE?!

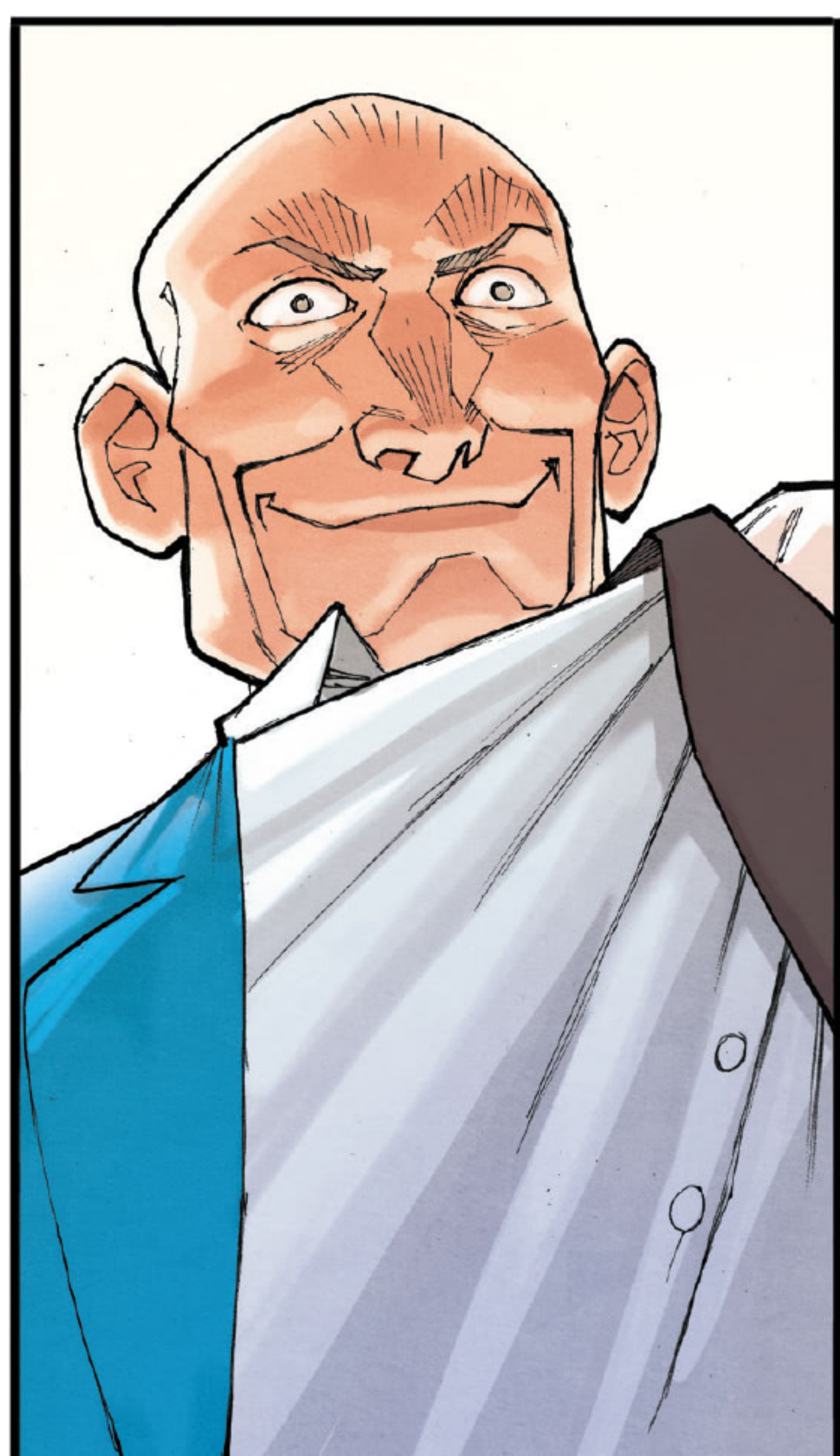
NO
IDEA...



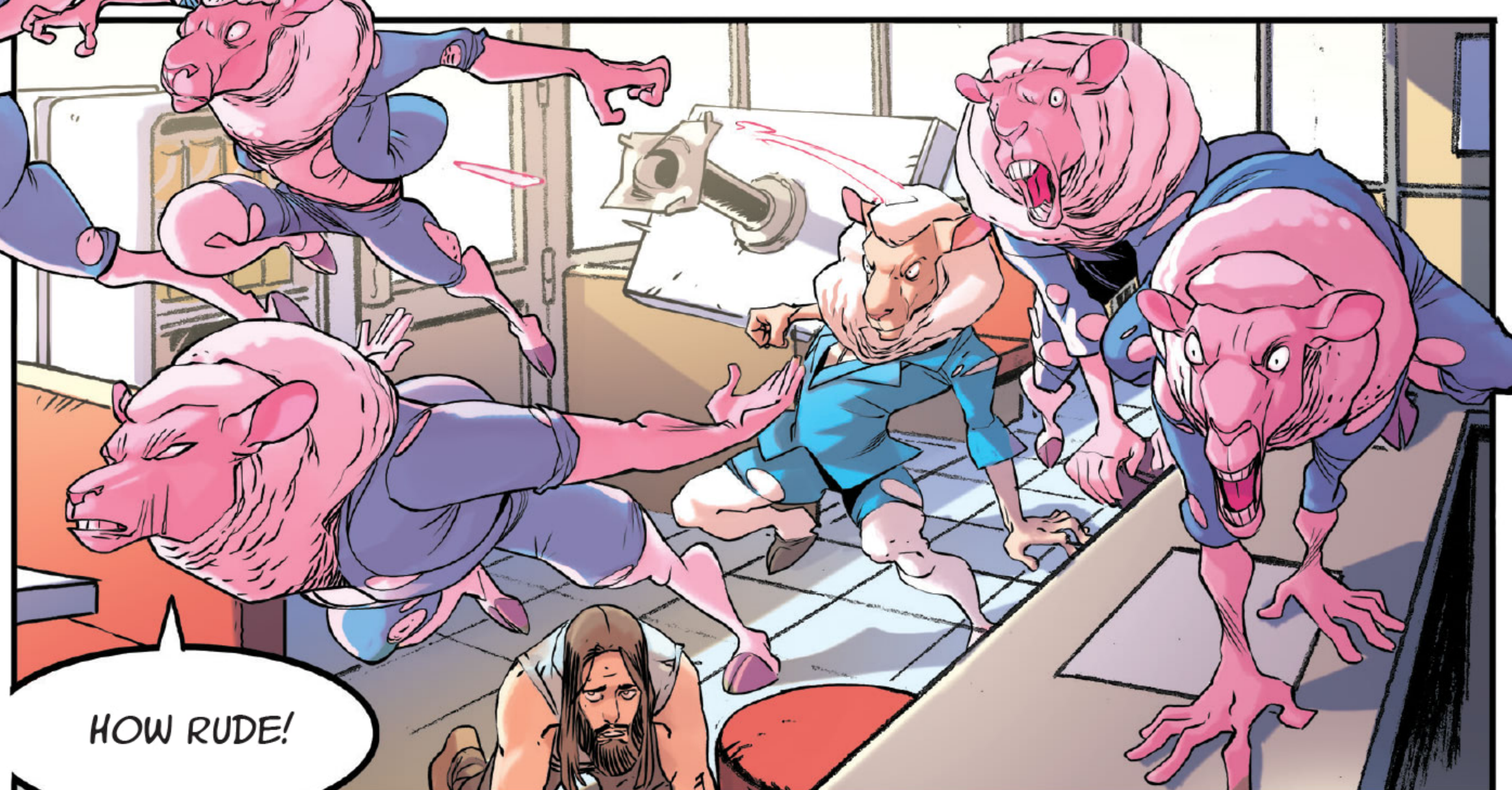
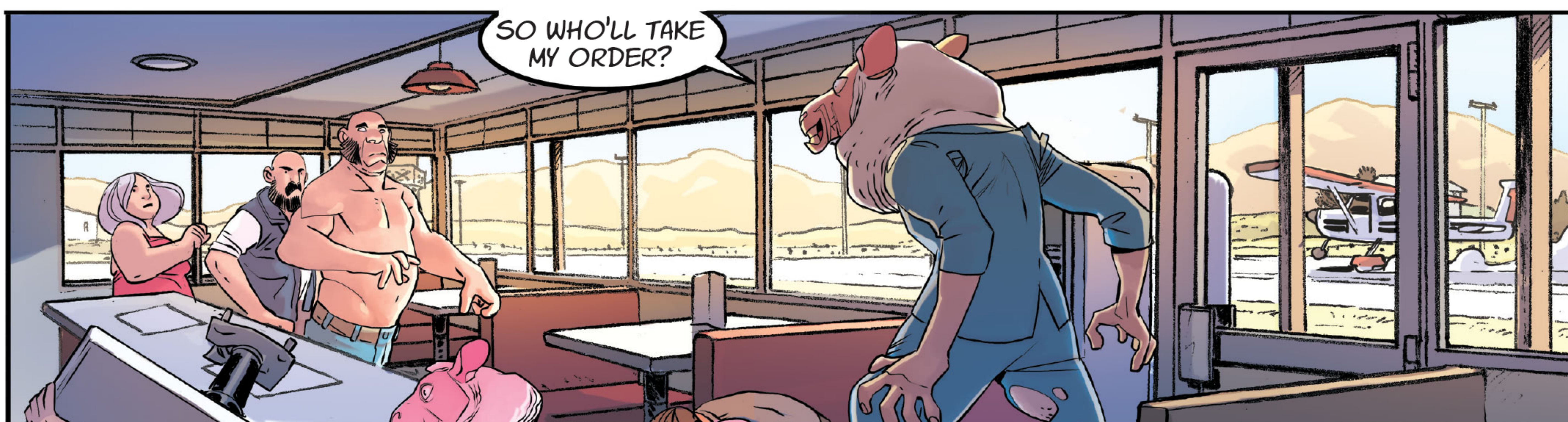
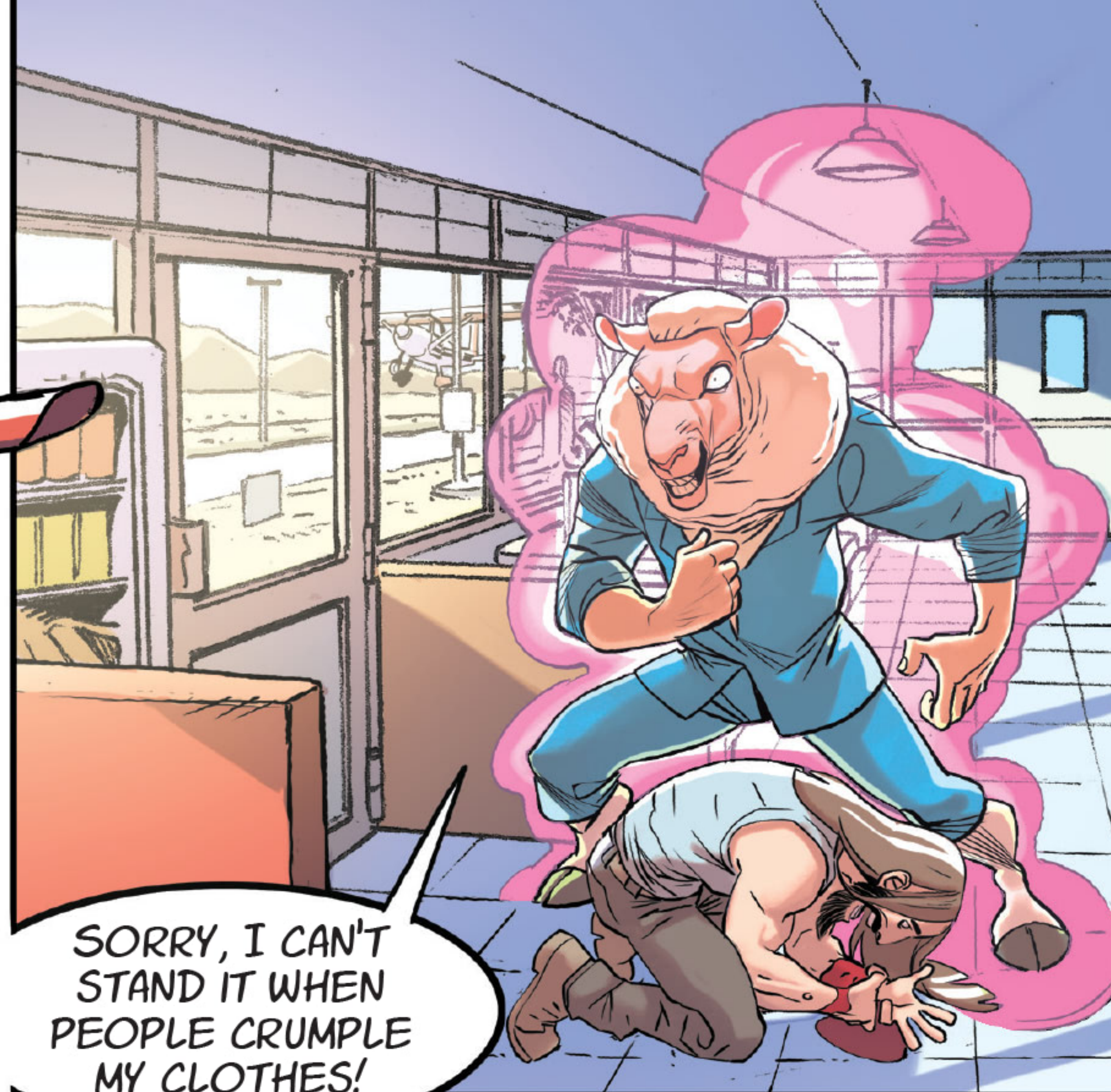
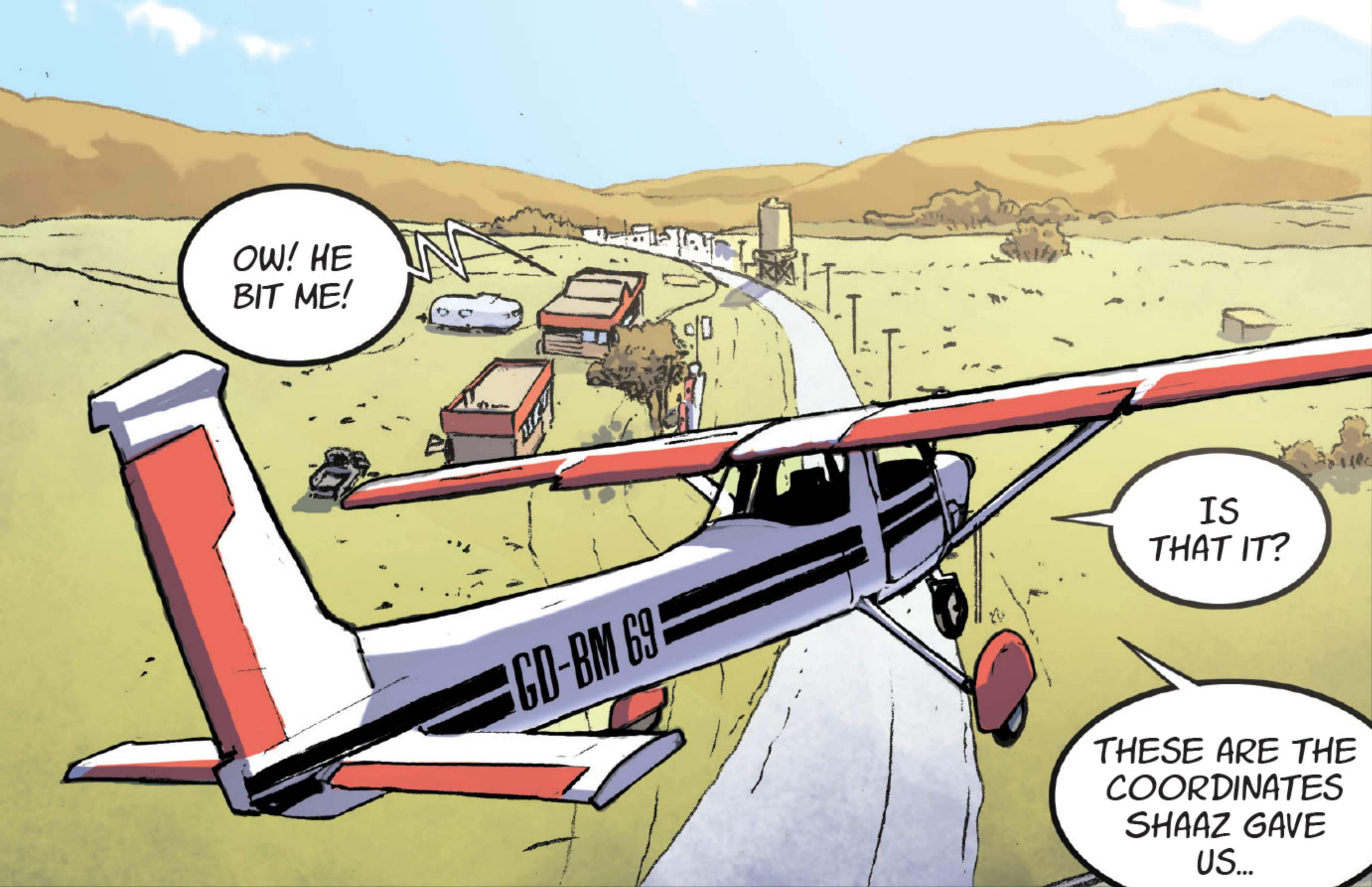
CAN I HAVE A CHEESEBURGER WITH ONIONS
AND A LARGE LEMONADE?

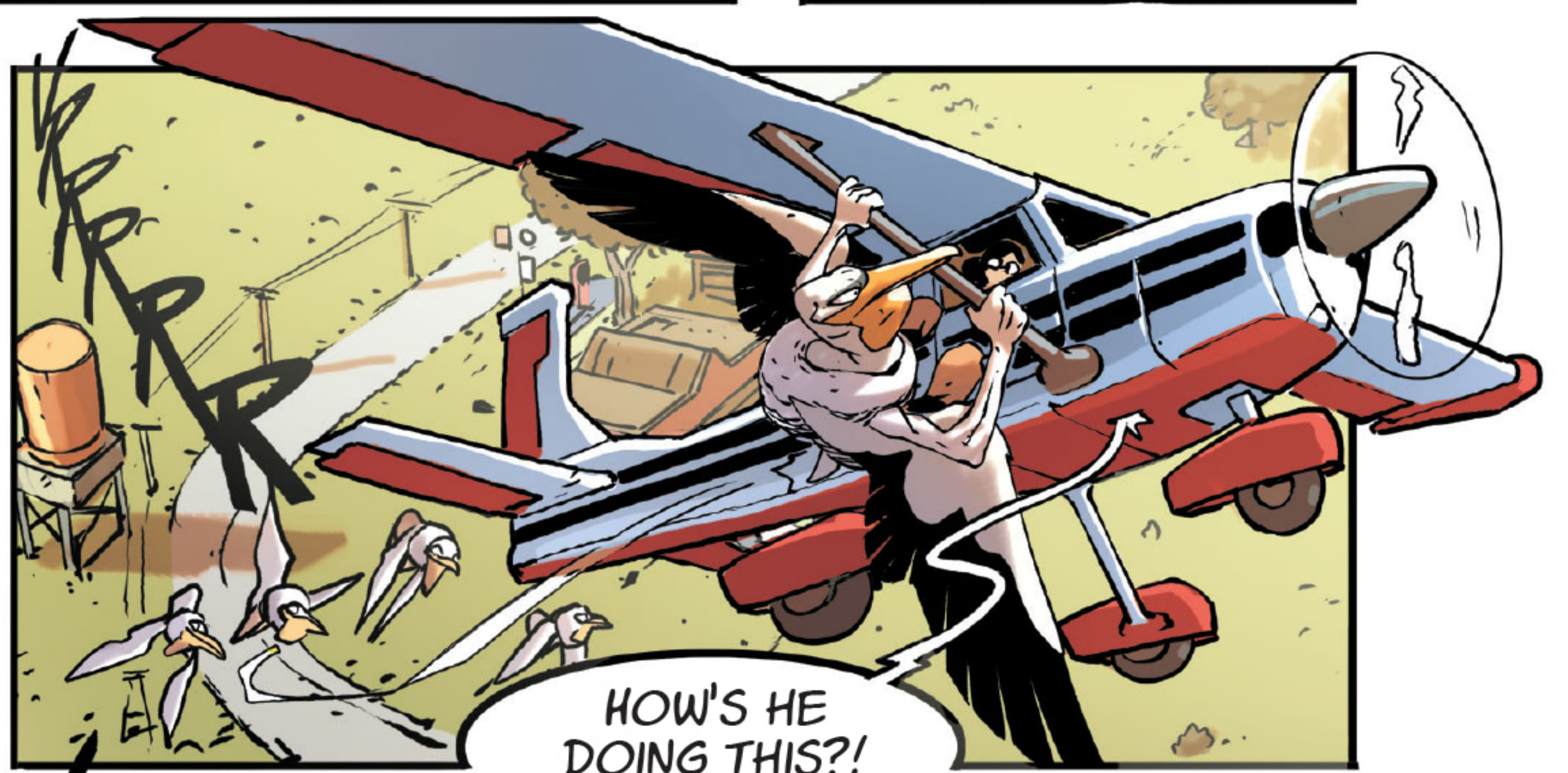
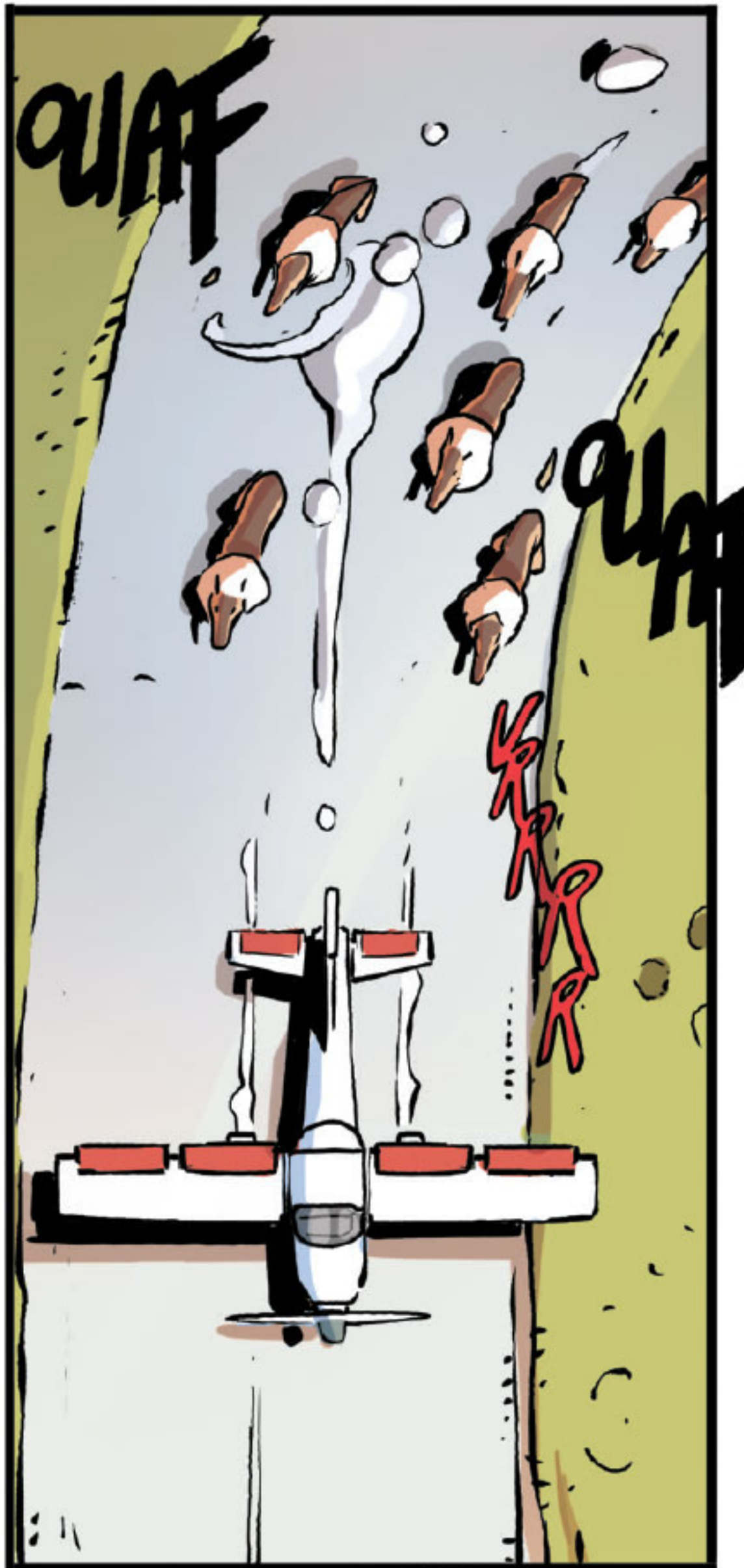
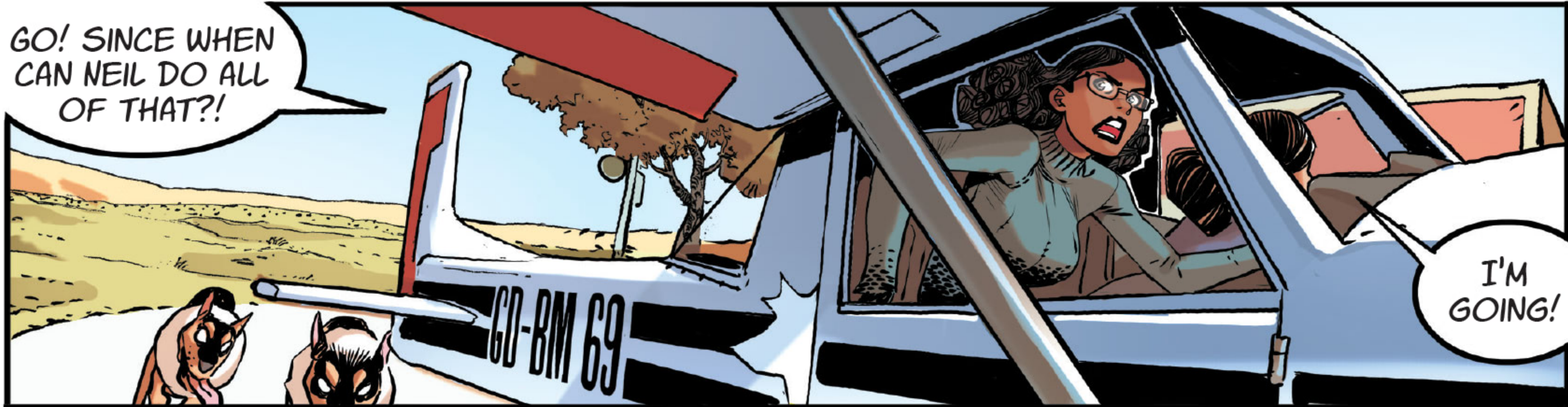


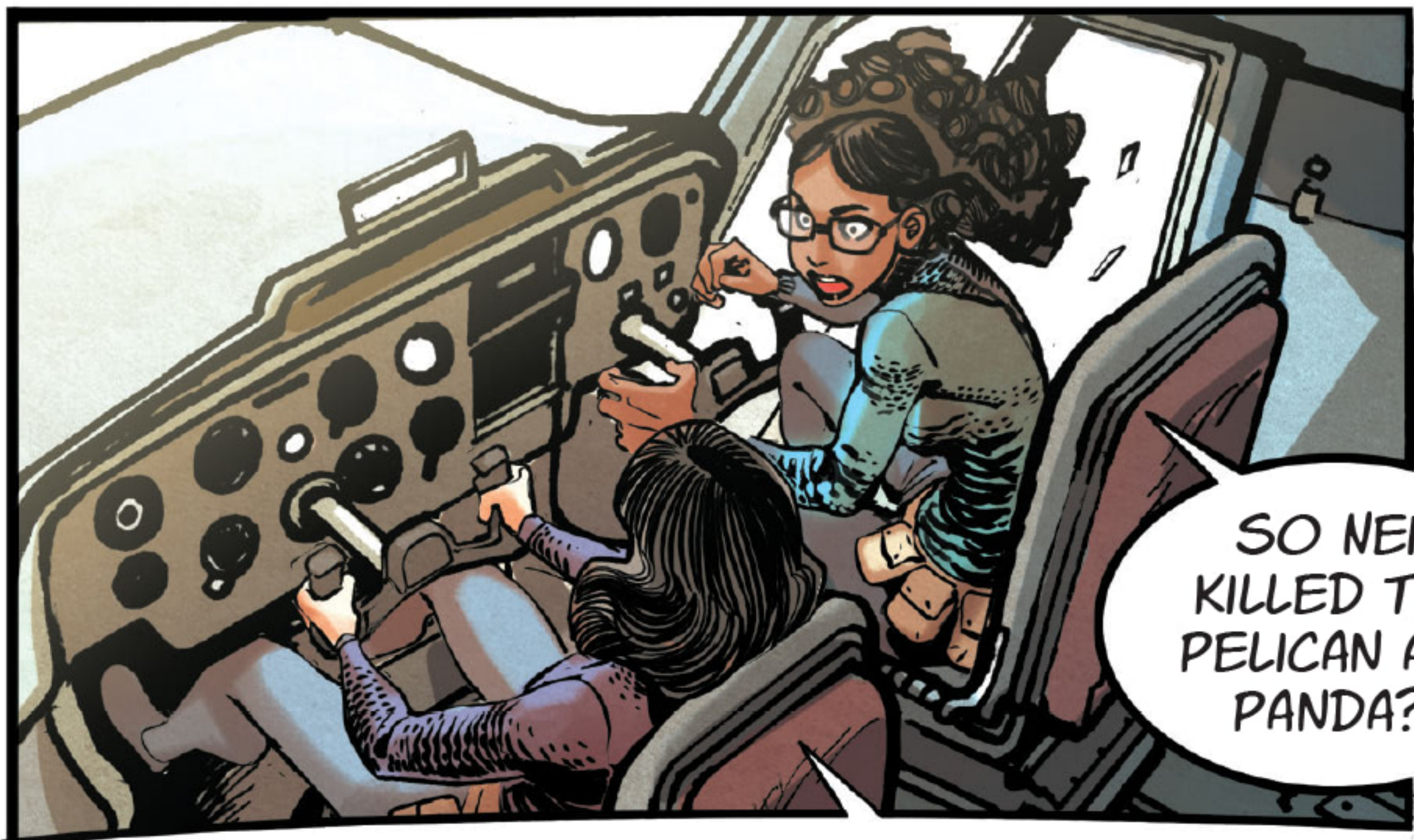
YOU THINK THIS IS
SOME KINDA JOKE?!



QUIT
GRINNING!





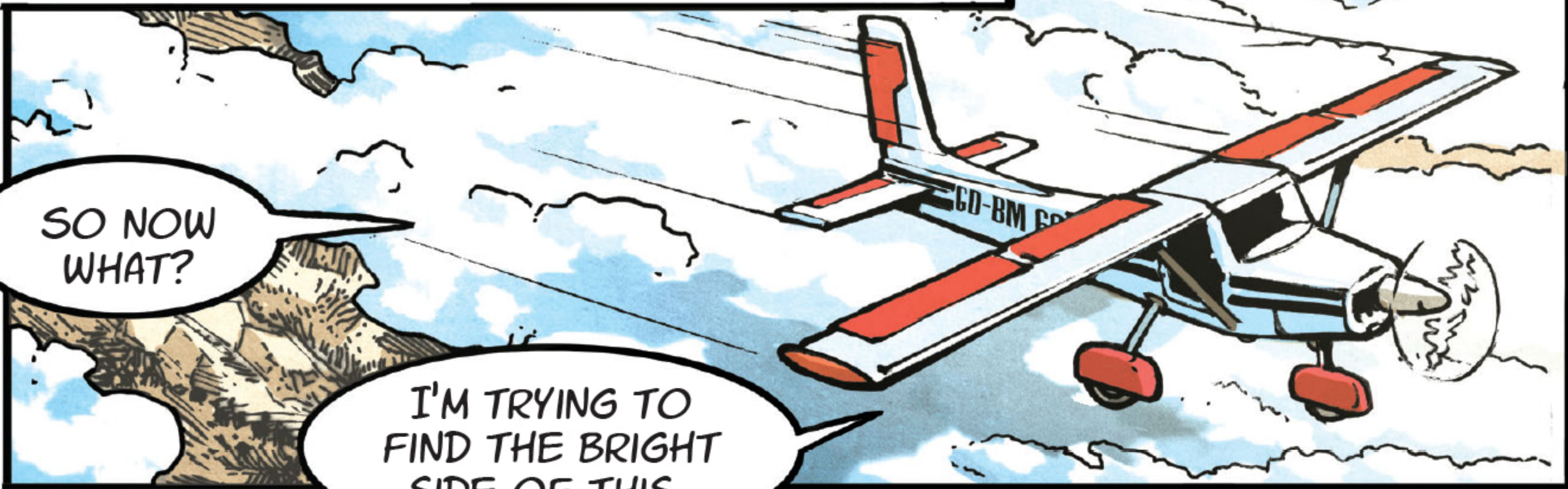


SO NEIL
KILLED THE
PELICAN AND
PANDA?!



DON'T REMIND ME...

I DOUBT THAT WAS SAMIR'S IDEA...



SO NOW
WHAT?

I'M TRYING TO
FIND THE BRIGHT
SIDE OF THIS...

DO YOU THINK THE MONKEYS ARE
STILL TRACKABLE?



CALL SHAAZ AND ASK.



OH, HELLO, MELANIE...
THE MONKEYS? LET
ME LOOK...

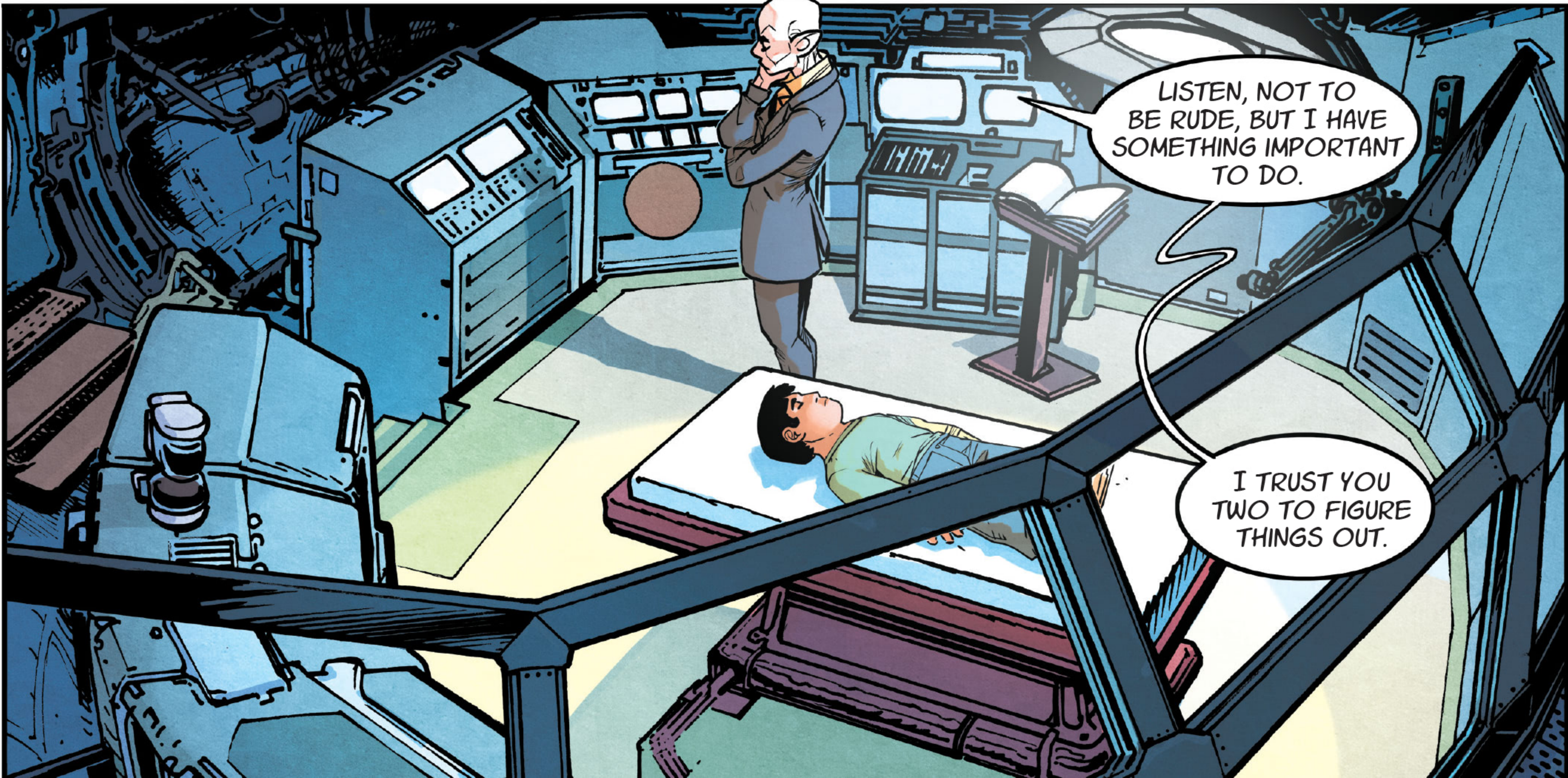


NOW, THAT'S
FUNNY. THEY'RE
IN DETROIT!

WHY
FUNNY?

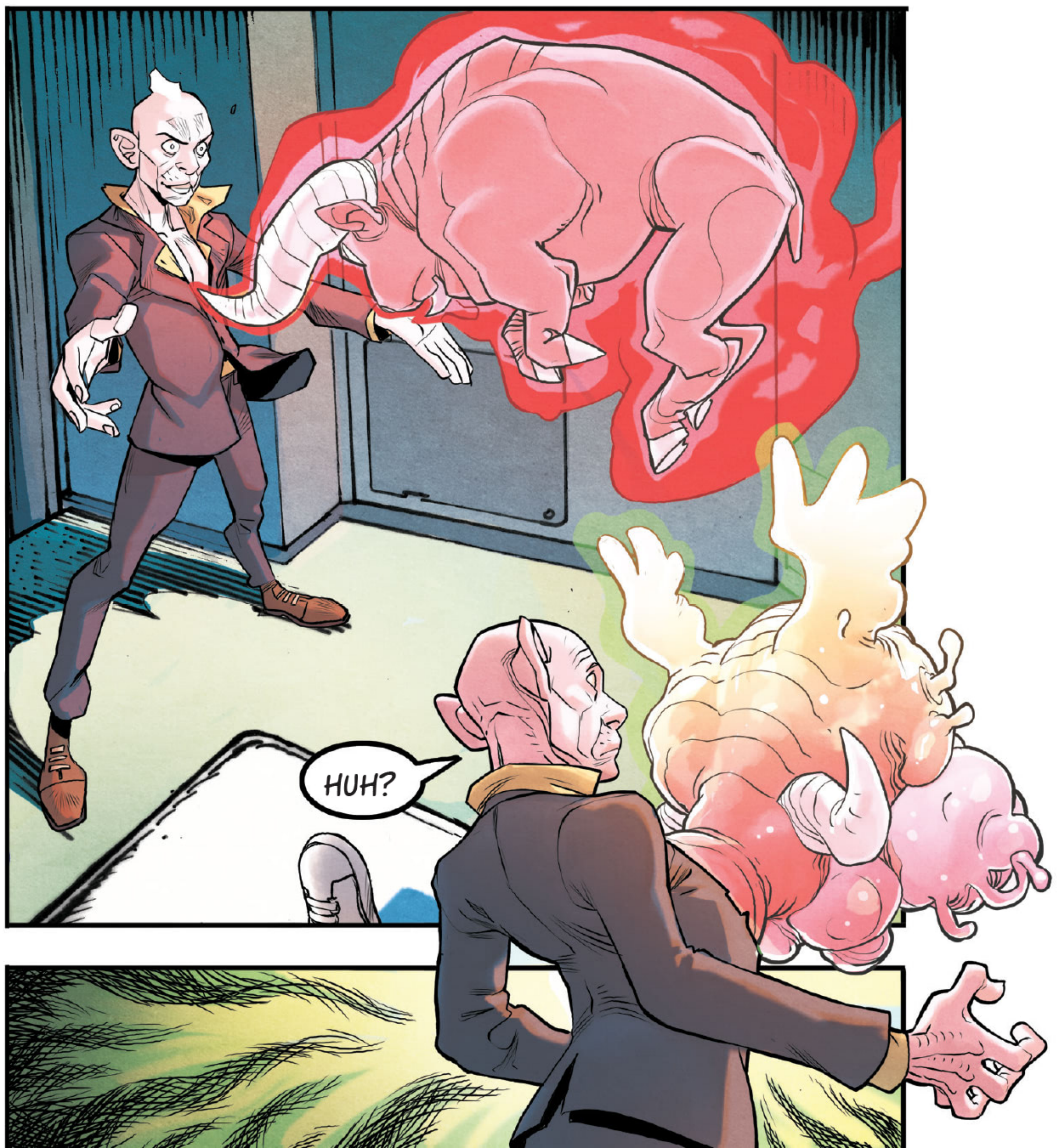
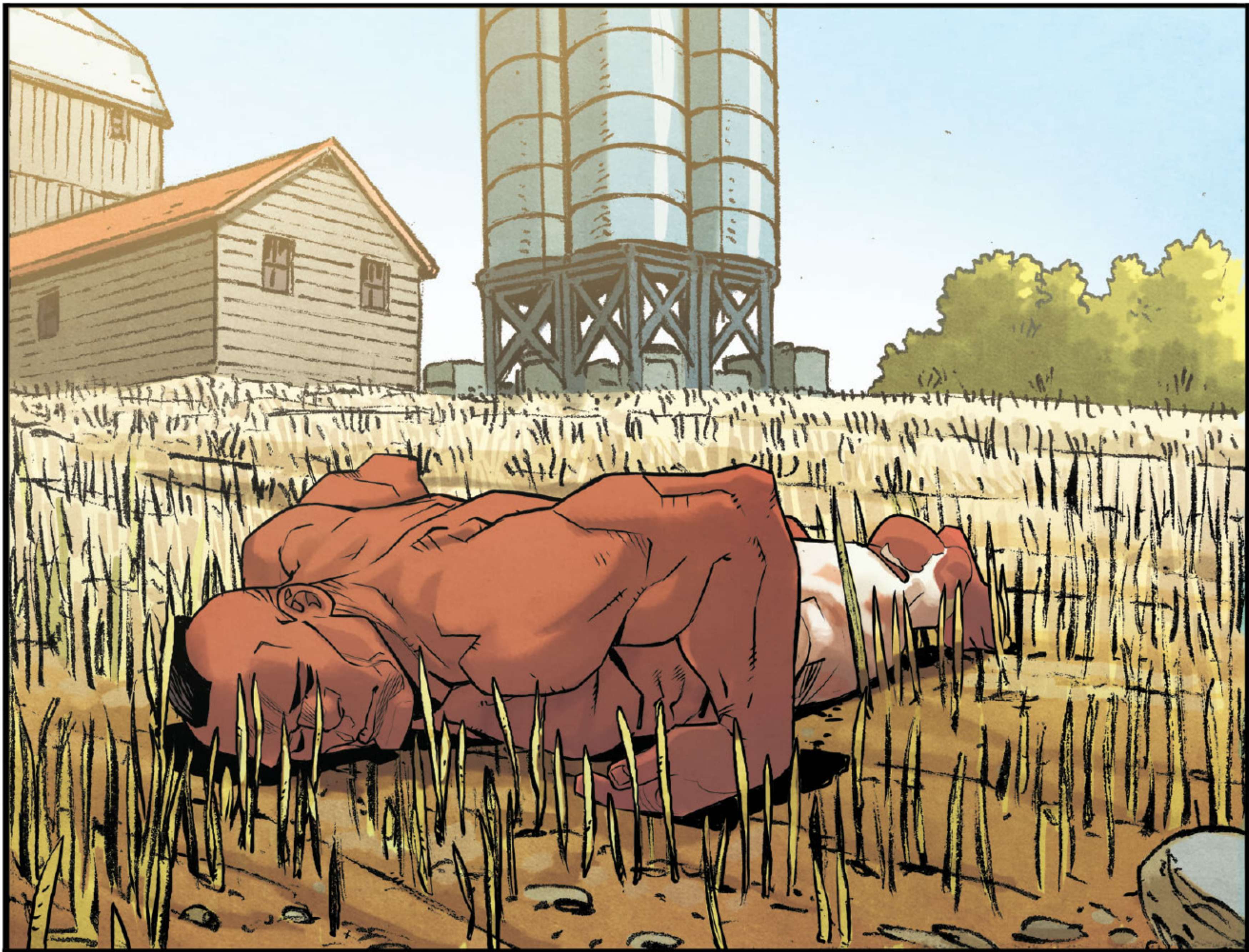


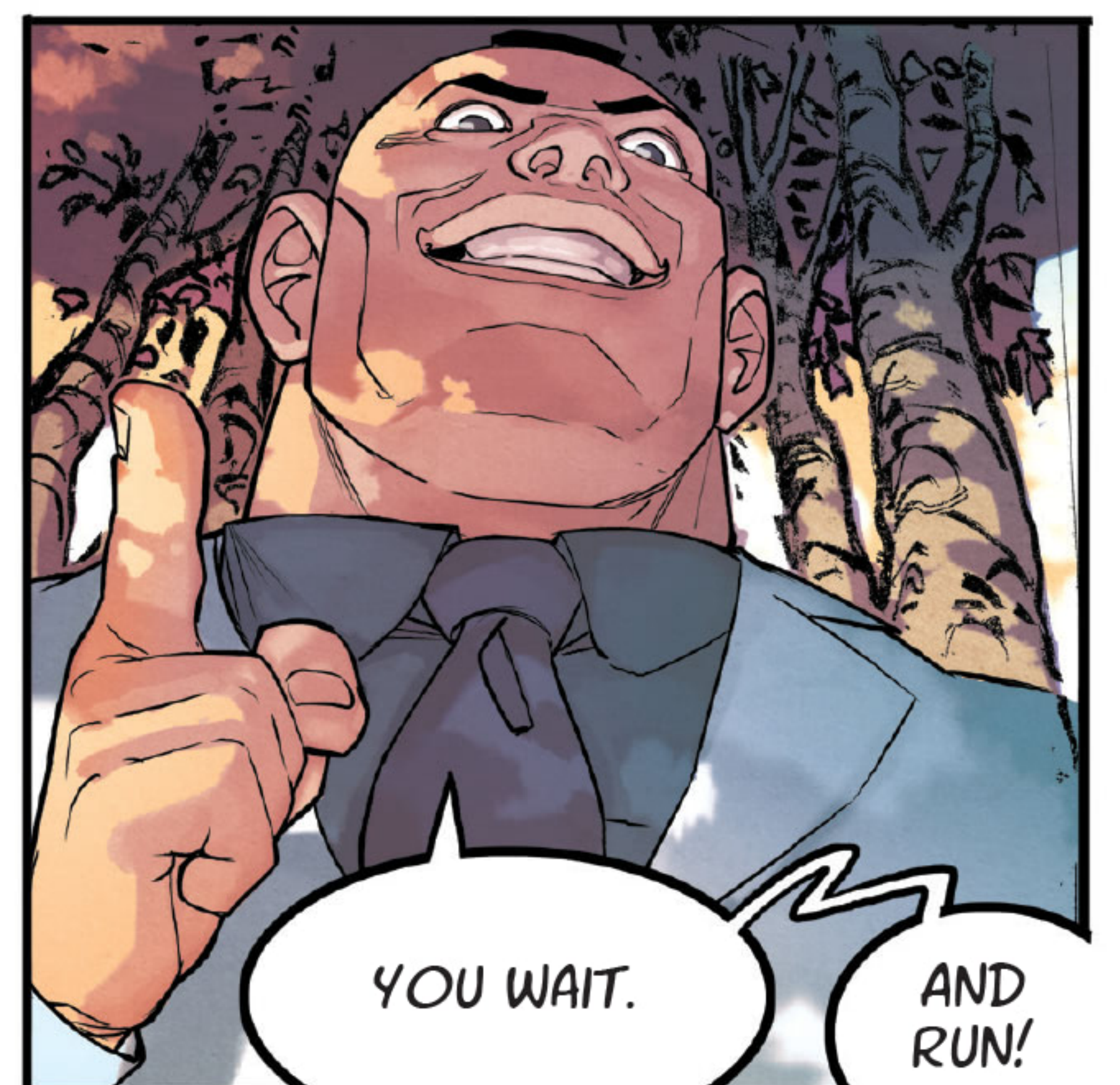
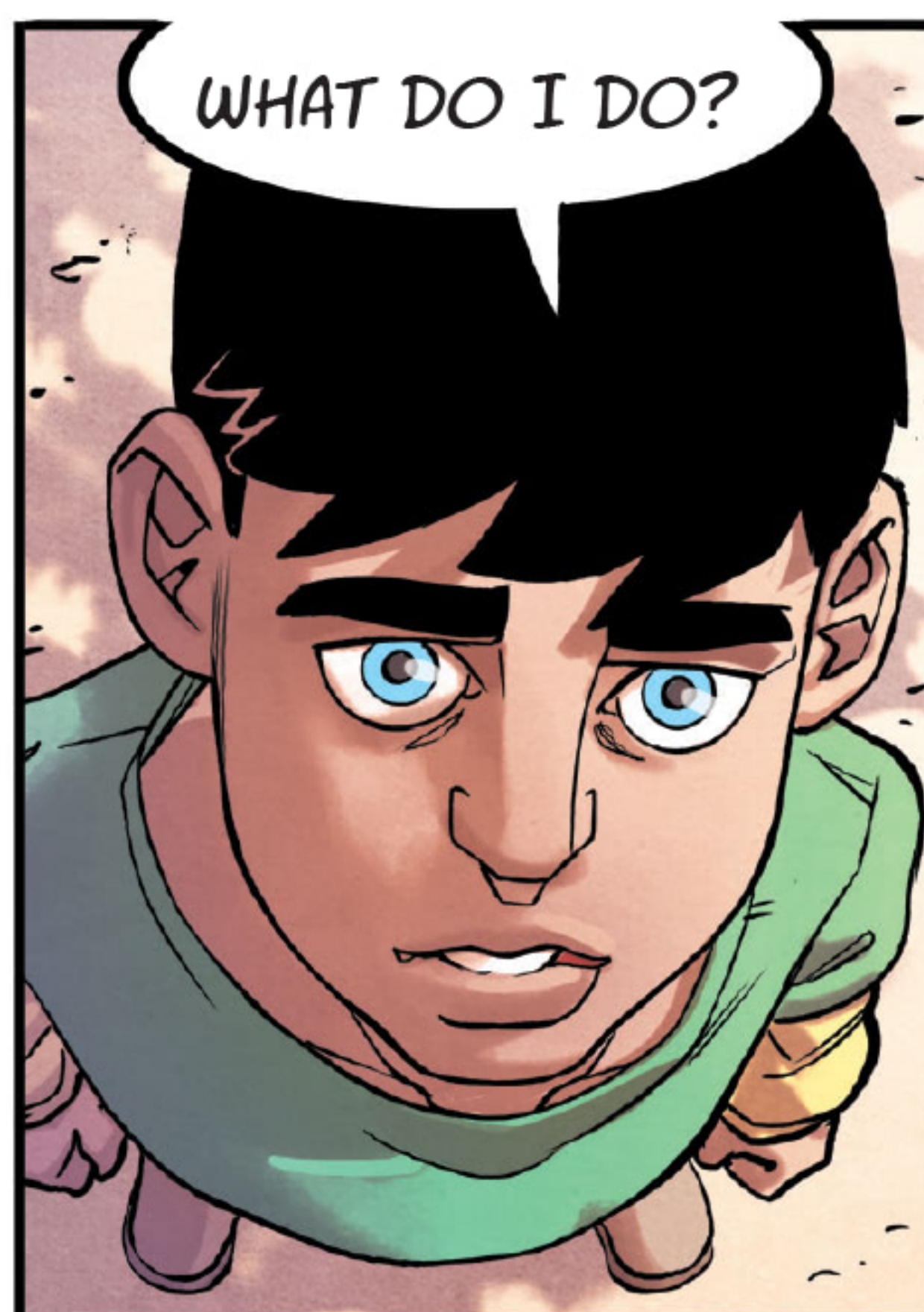
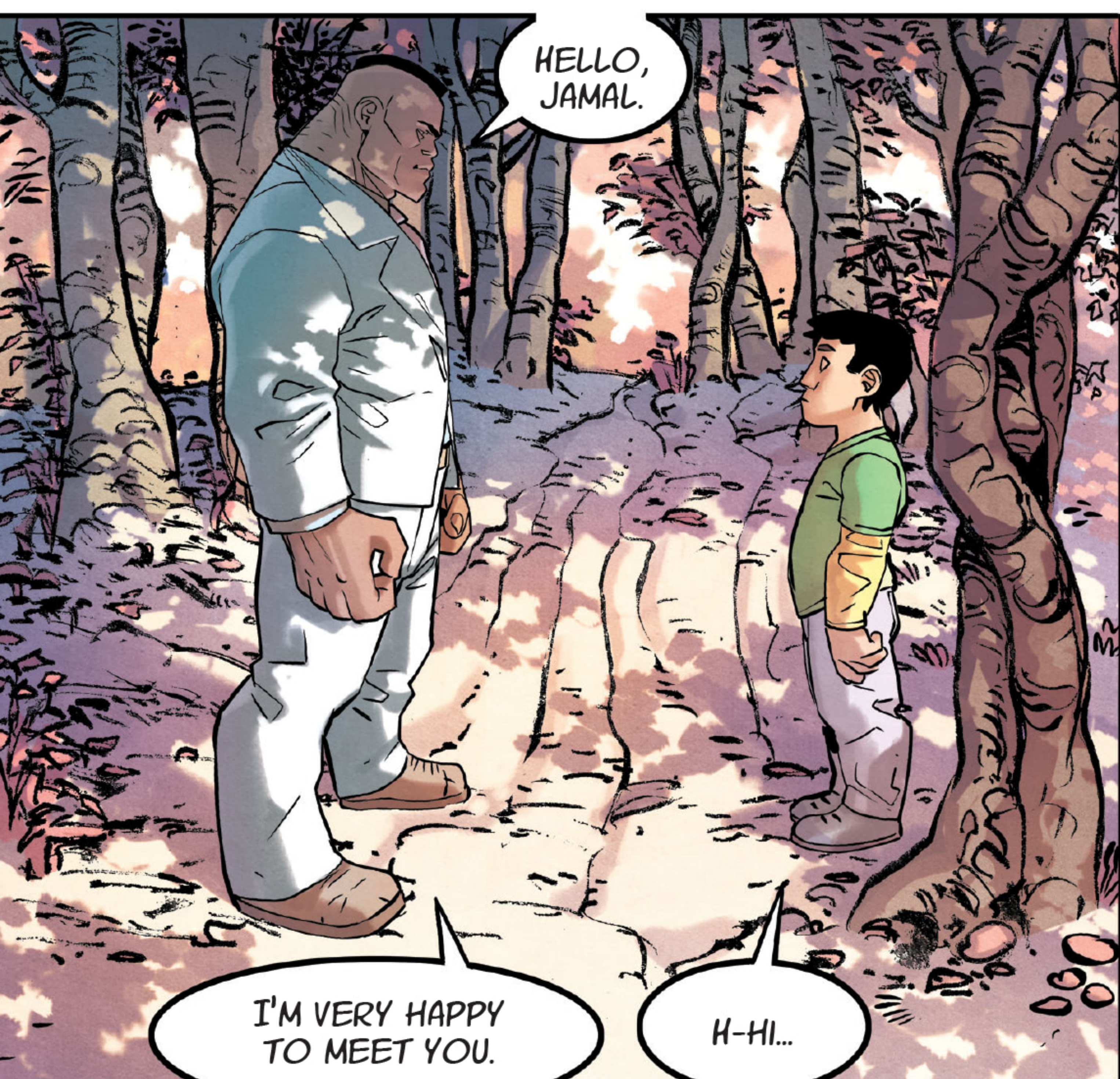
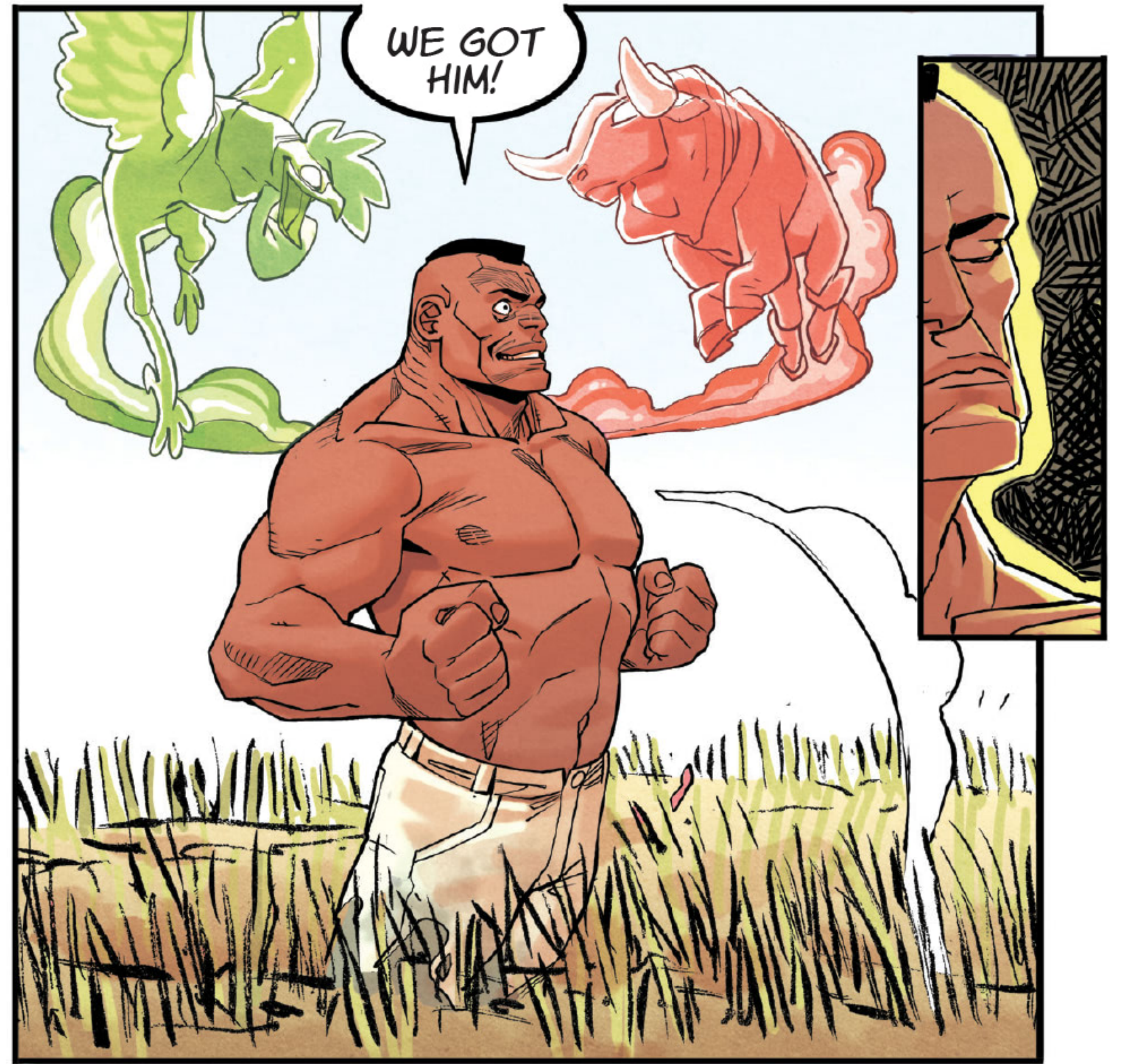
IT JUST SEEMS
LIKE EVERYONE'S
MADE PLANS TO
MEET THERE...



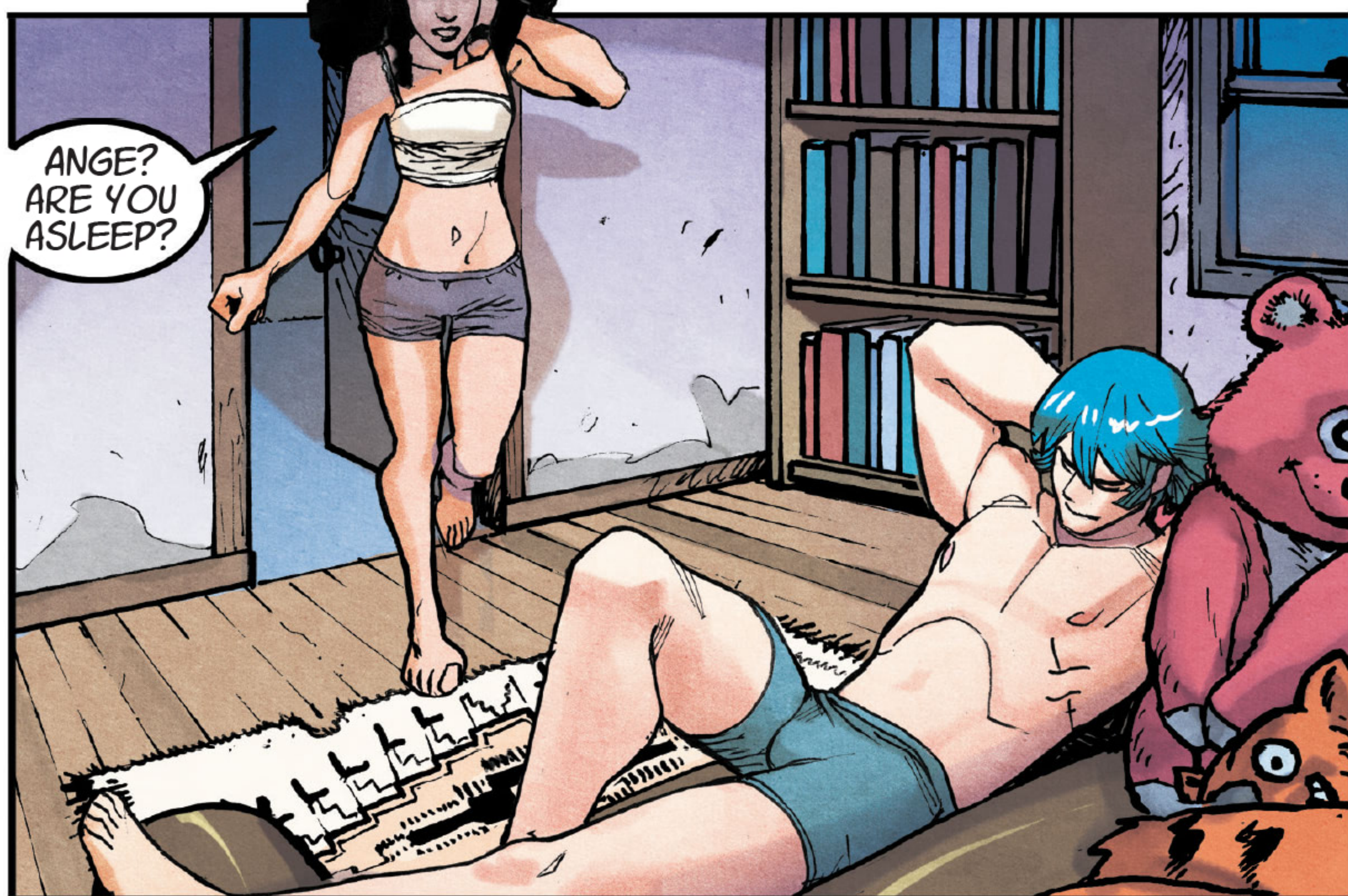
LISTEN, NOT TO
BE RUDE, BUT I HAVE
SOMETHING IMPORTANT
TO DO.

I TRUST YOU
TWO TO FIGURE
THINGS OUT.





LAST WEDNESDAY
BEFORE IMPACT.

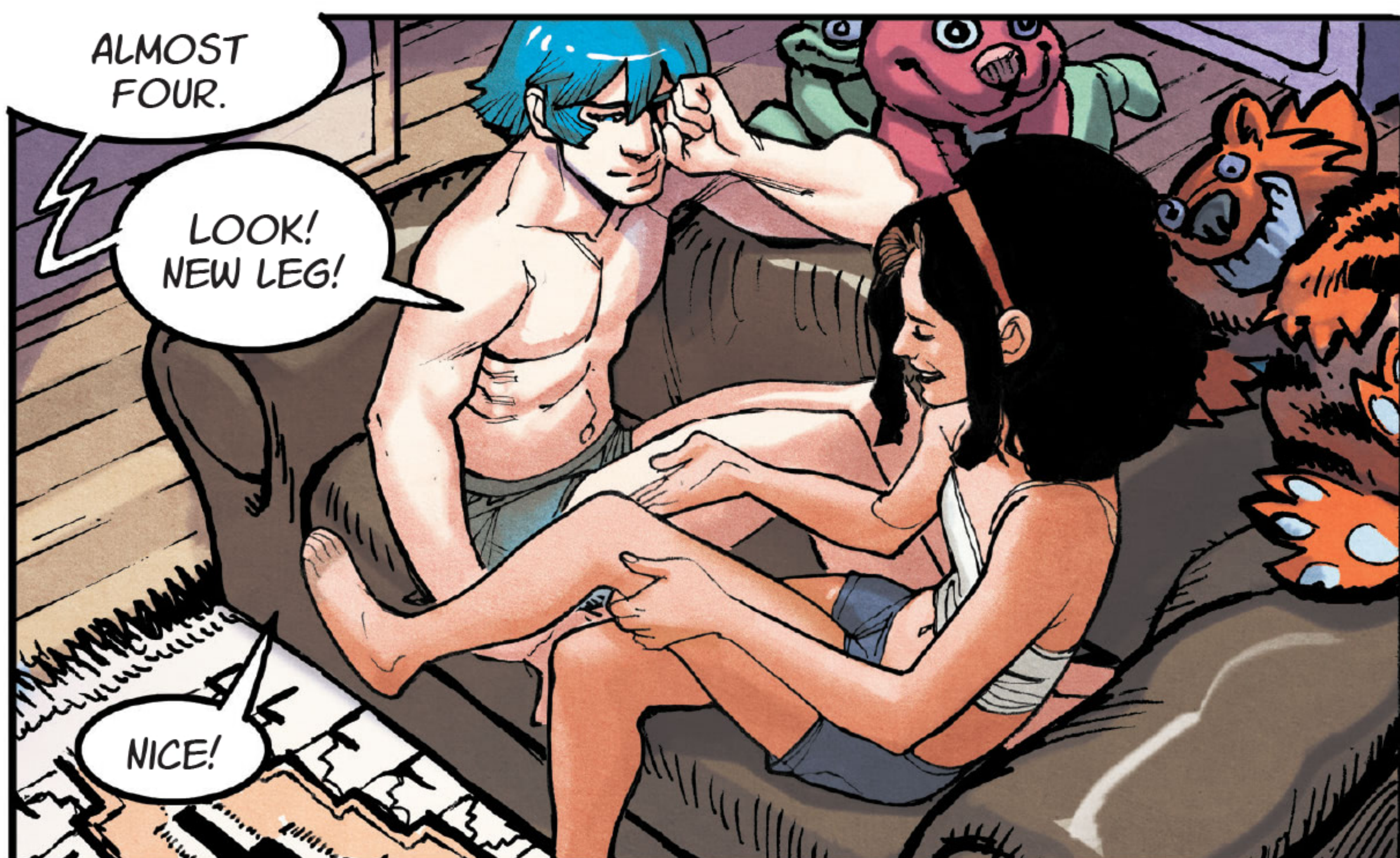


ANGE?
ARE YOU
ASLEEP?



NOT
AT ALL.

WHAT TIME
IS IT?



ALMOST
FOUR.

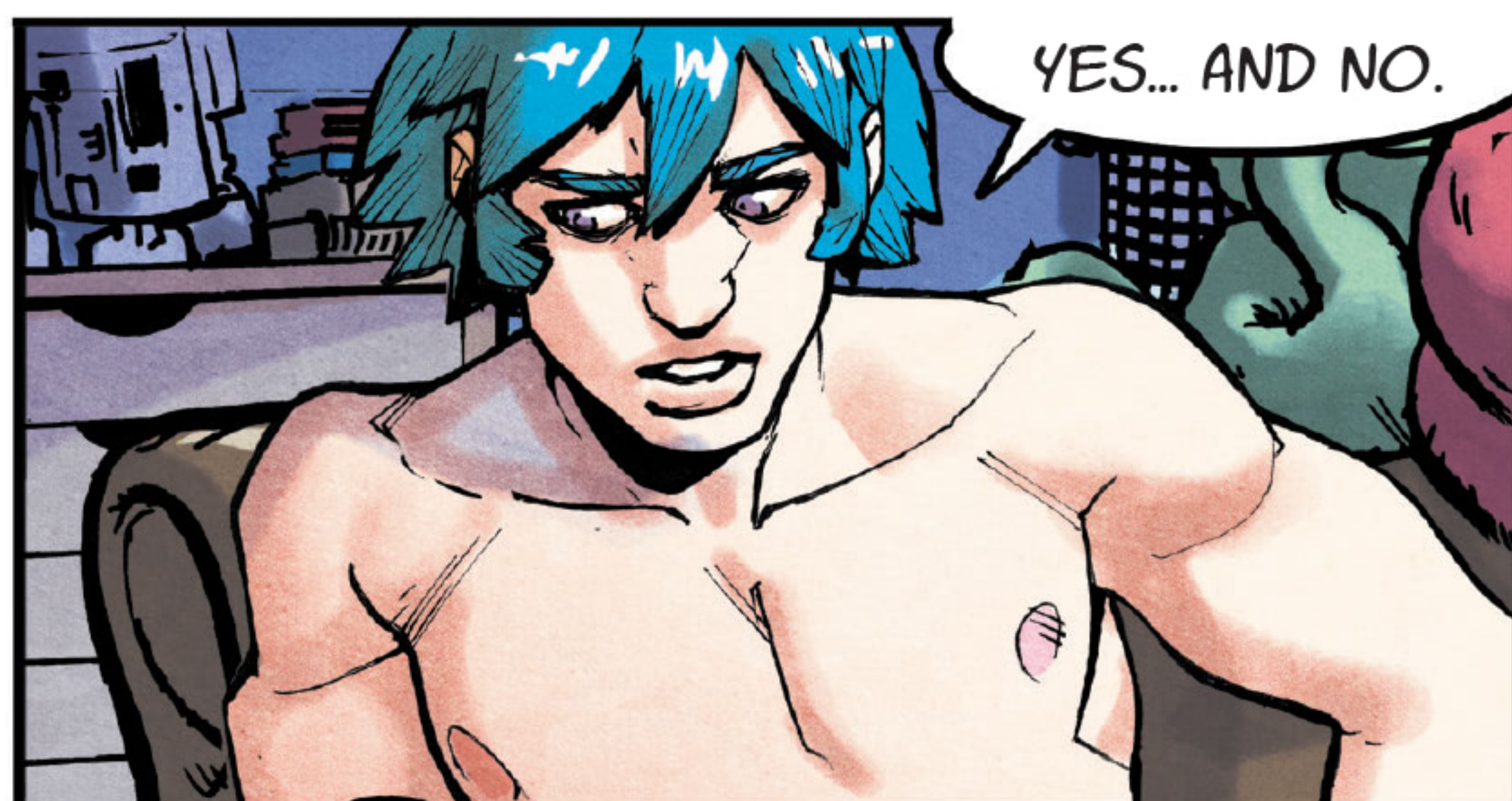
LOOK!
NEW LEG!

NICE!



DID YOU
THINK ABOUT
MY OFFER?

WHY NOT? THINK ABOUT IT! YOU AND ME FIGHTING
CRIME TOGETHER! TWO KLAW AGAINST EVIL!

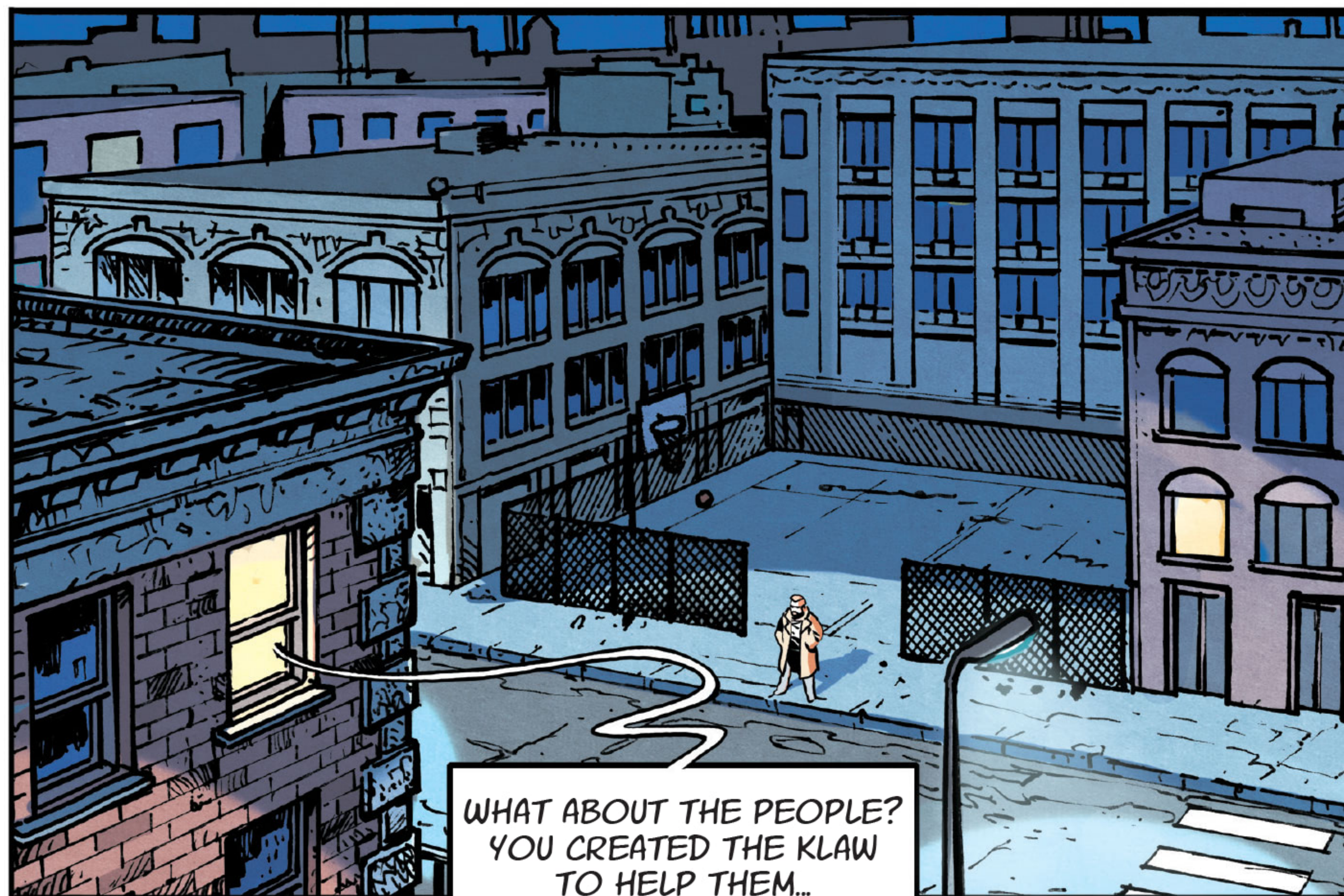
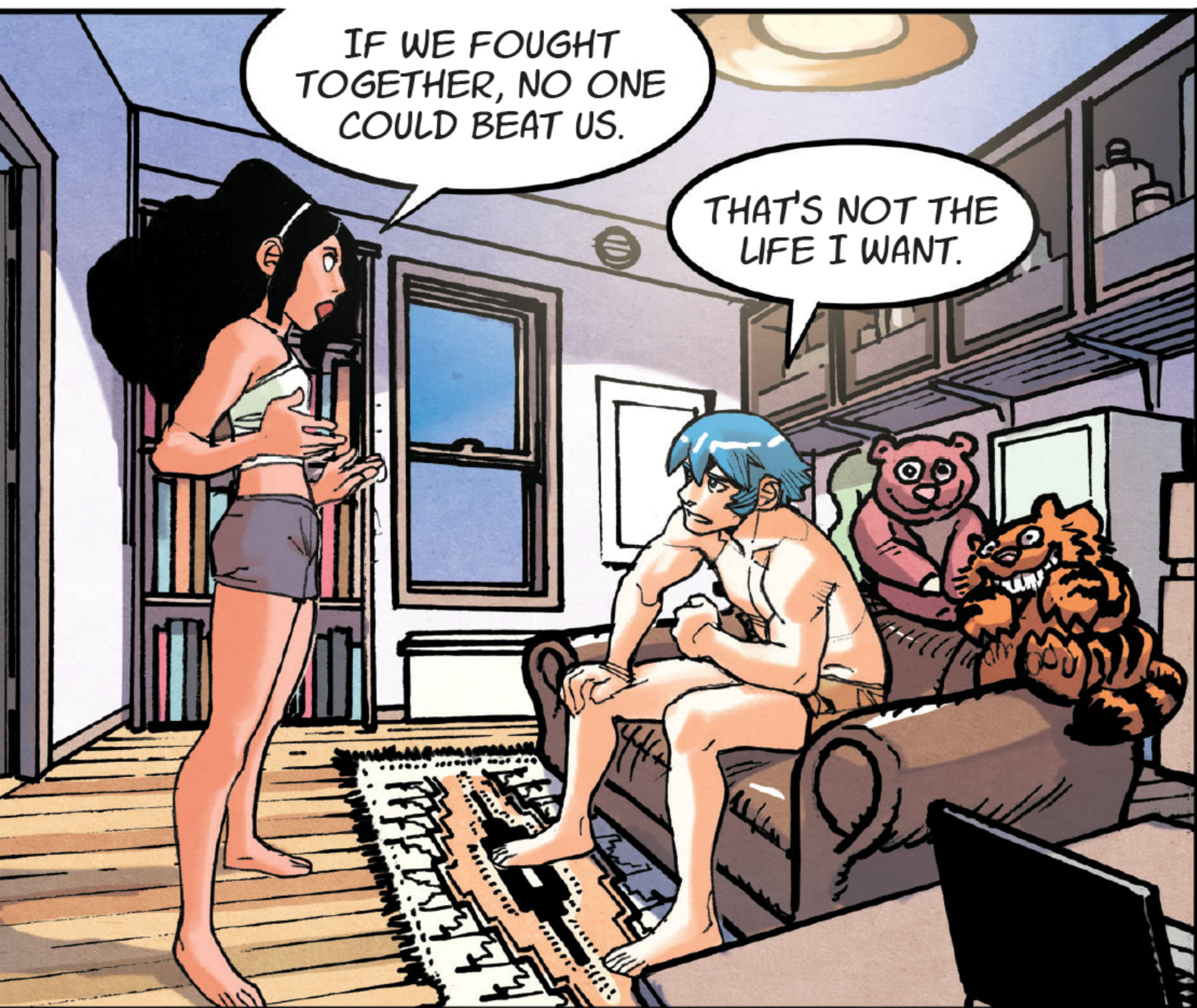


YES... AND NO.

IT'S THE
WORST IDEA
I'VE EVER
HEARD.

THE KLAW
ATTRACTS OTHER
DIZHIS LIKE A MAGNET!
THE WHOLE CITY'LL
BE INVADED BY DIZHIS
TRYING TO ABSORB
THE TIGER!



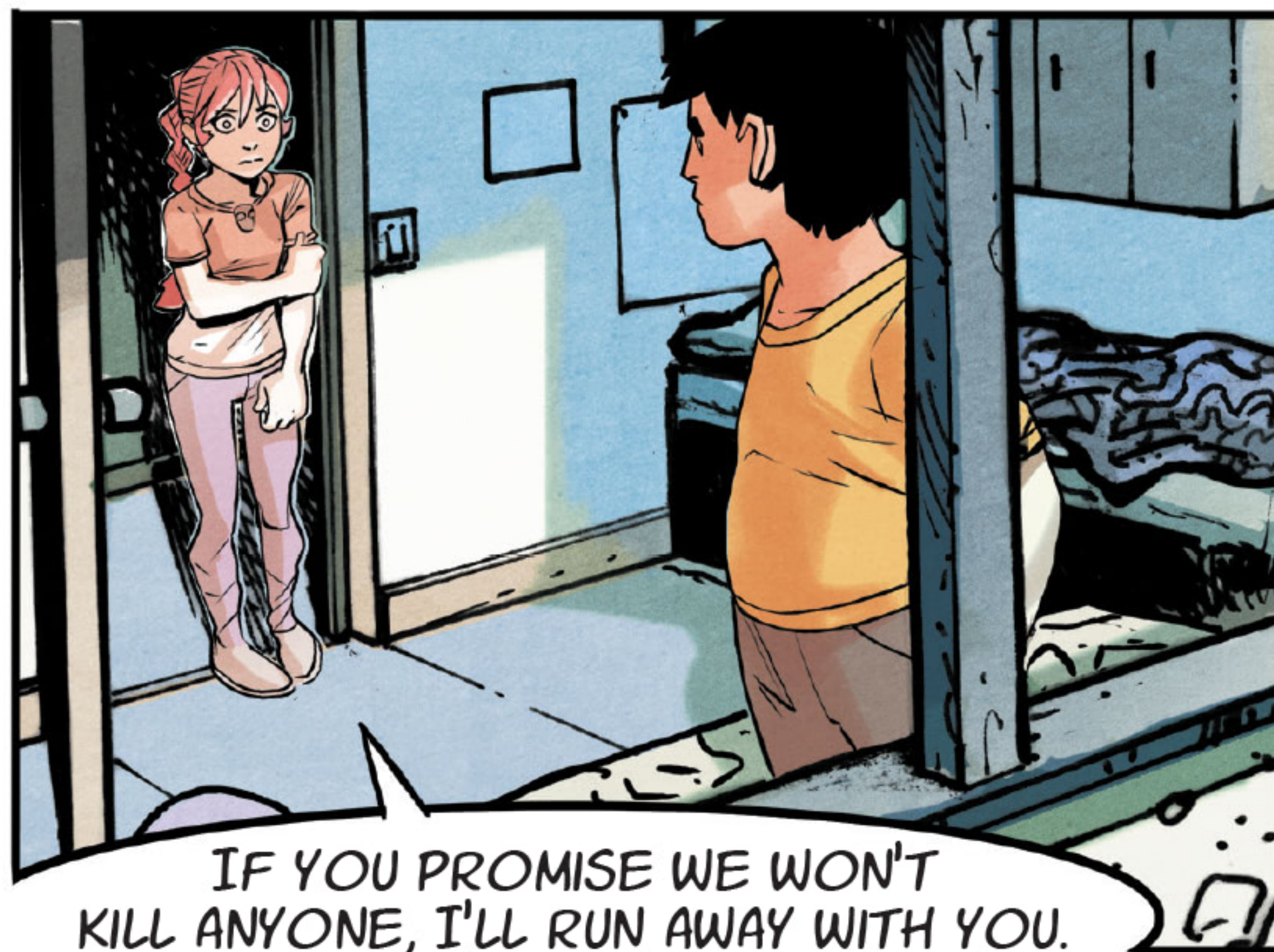
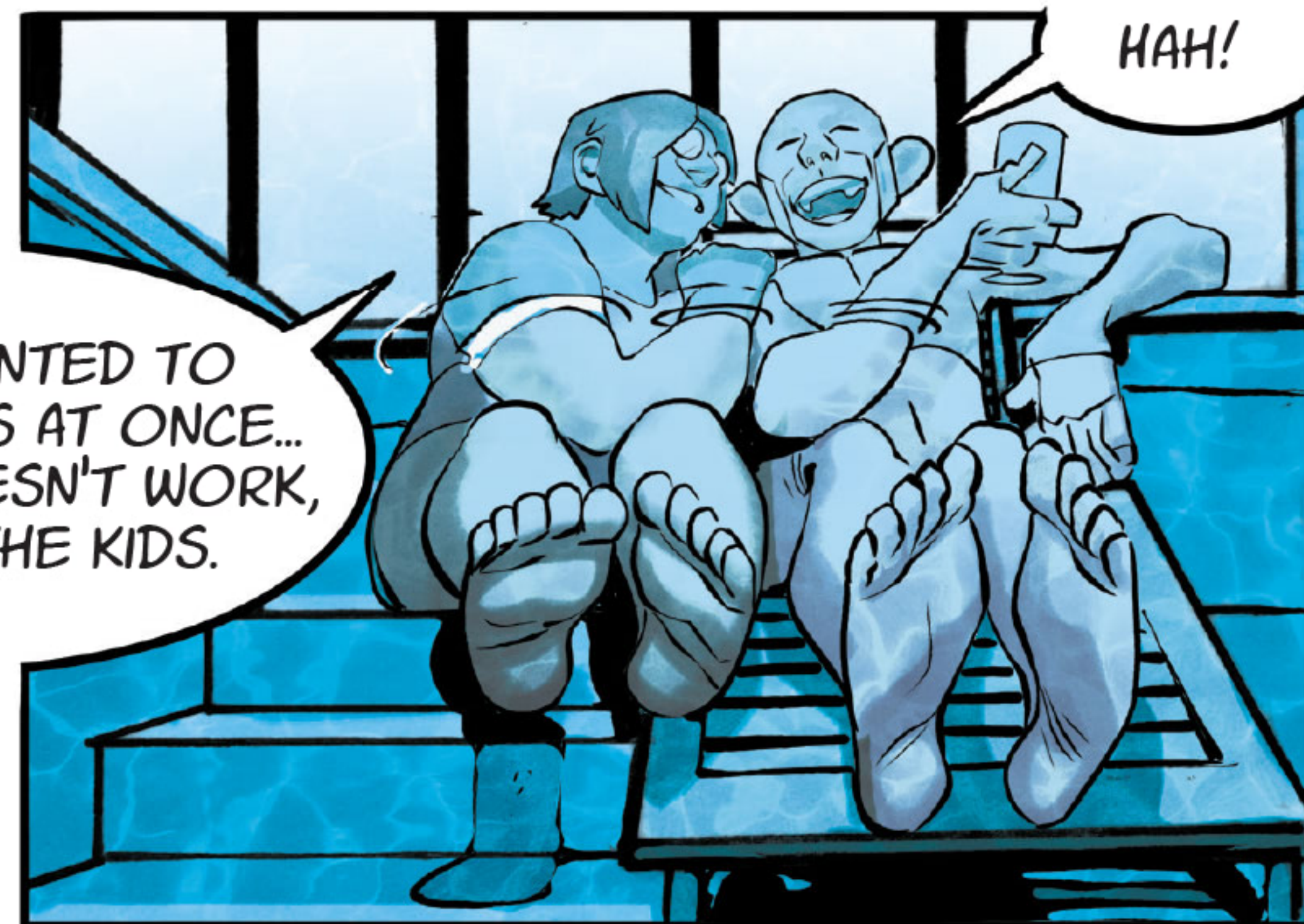
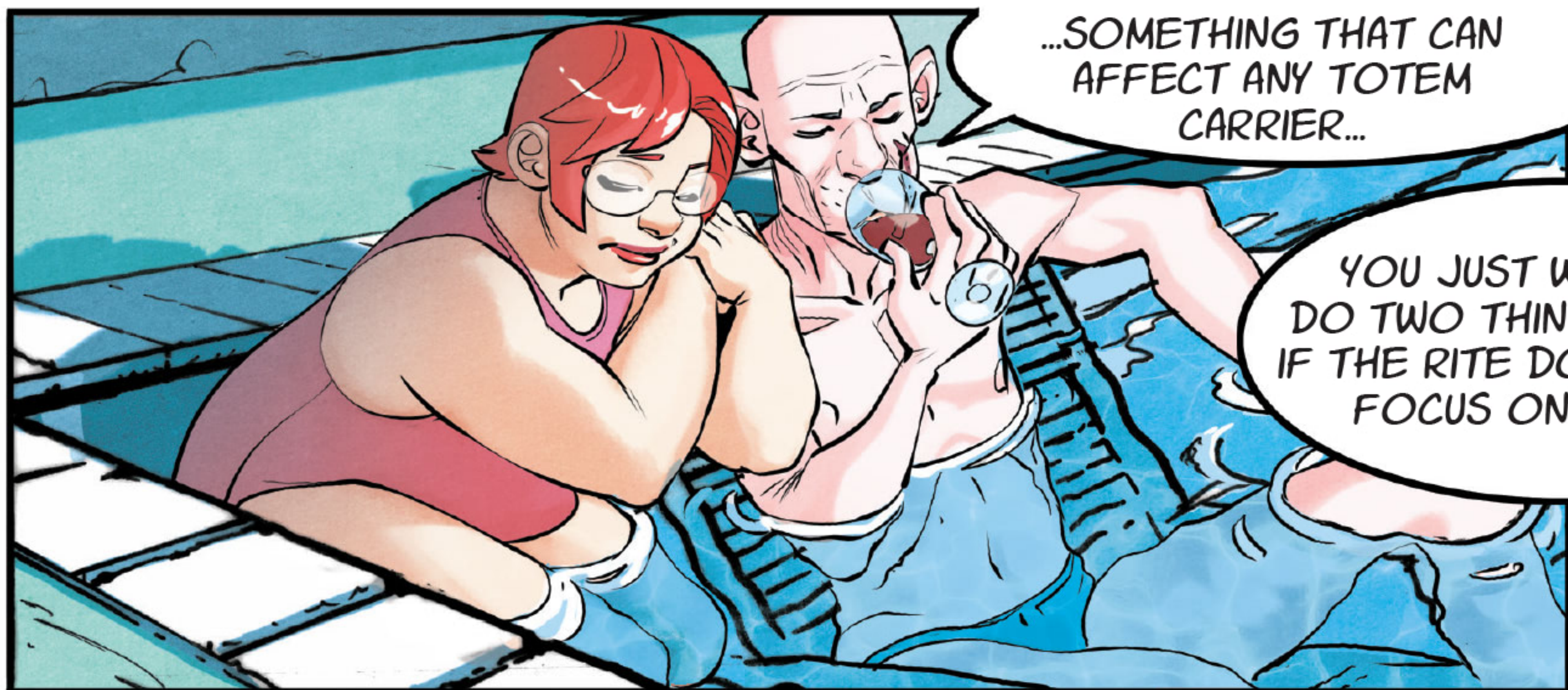
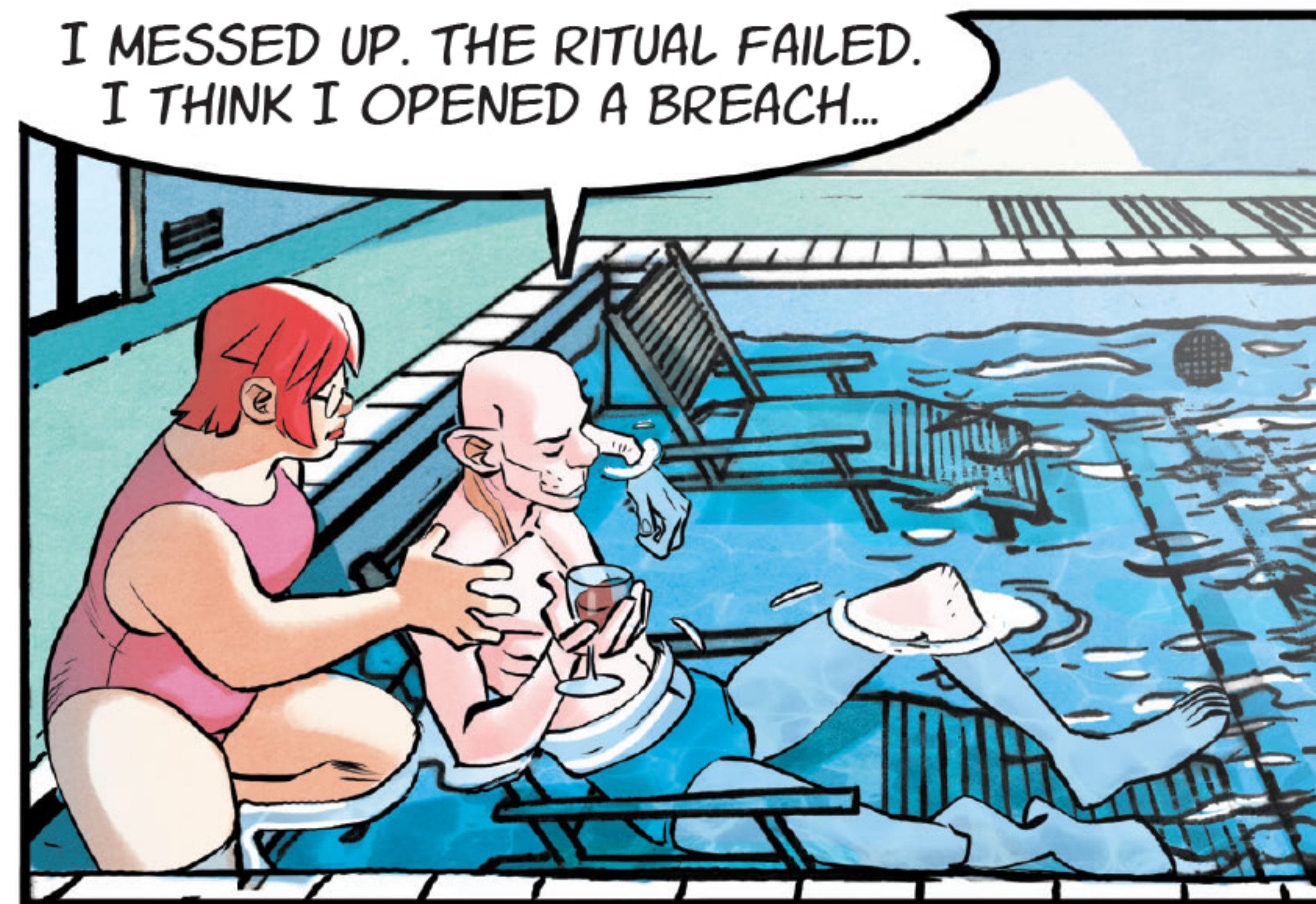
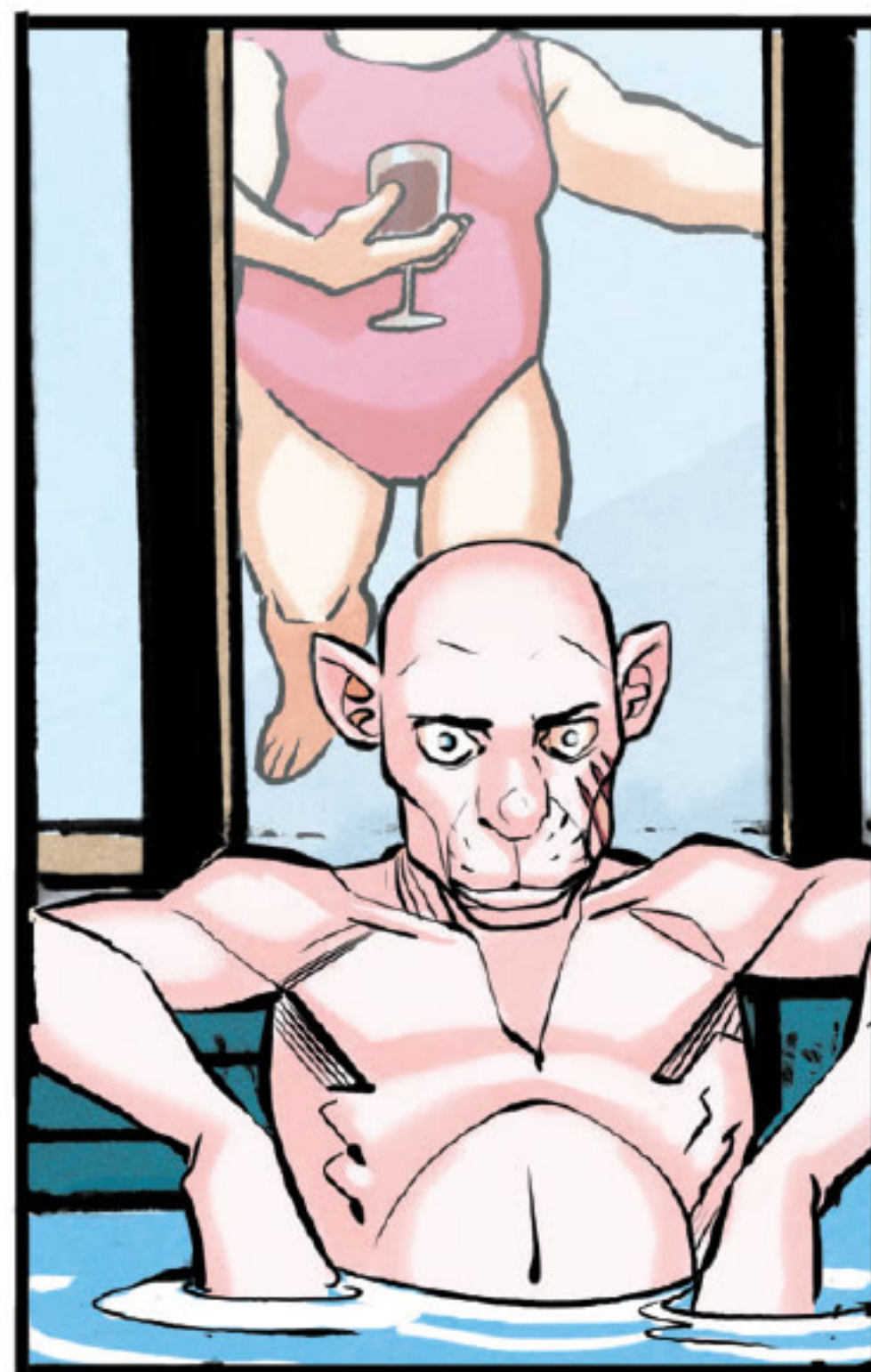
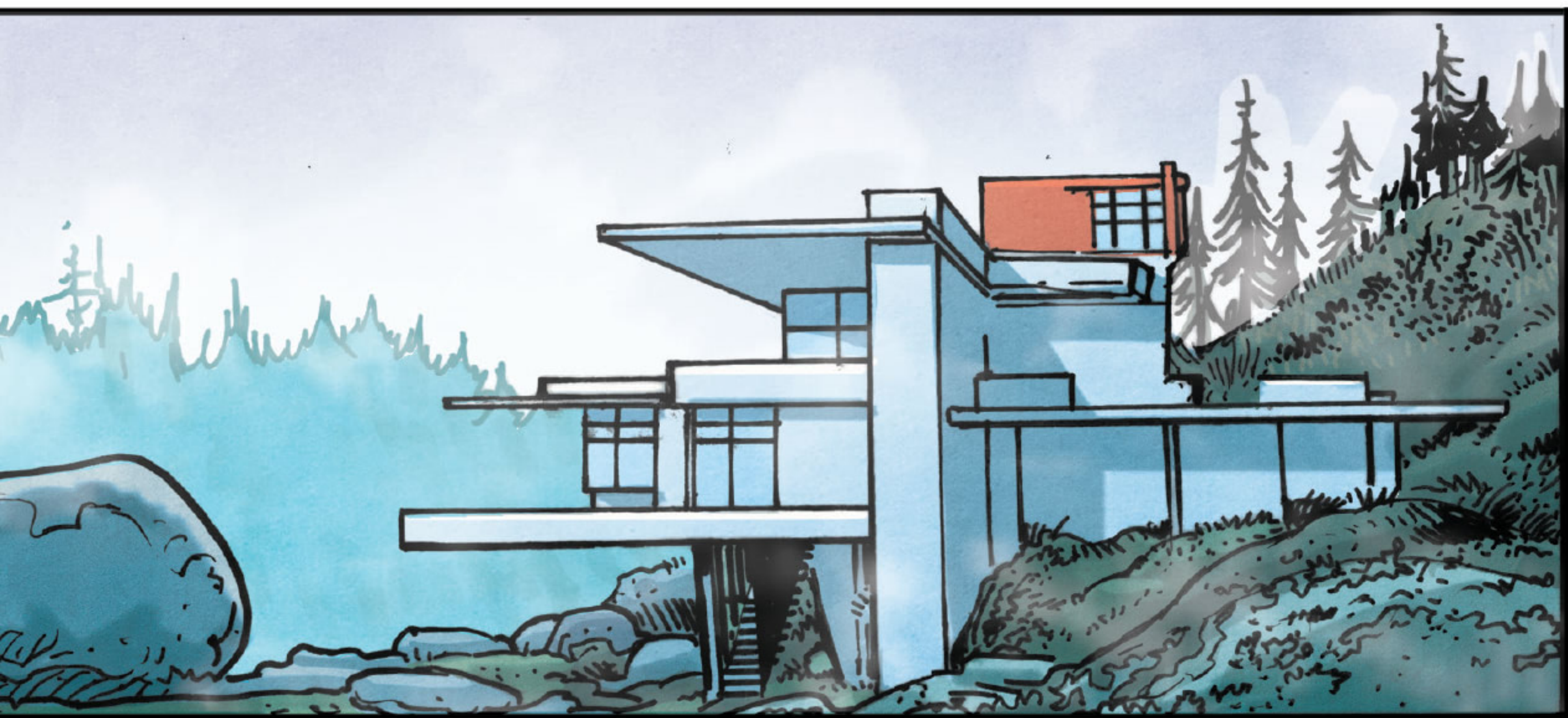


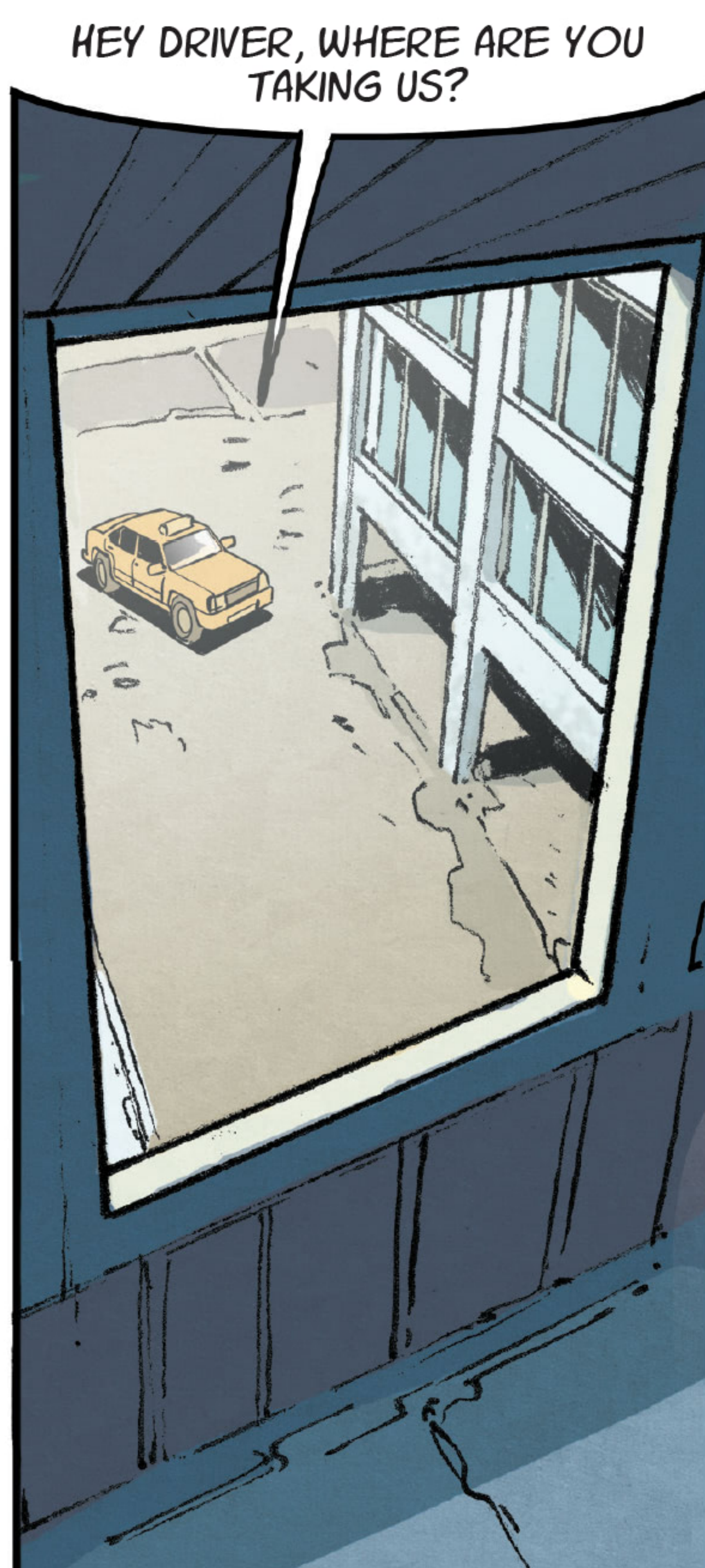
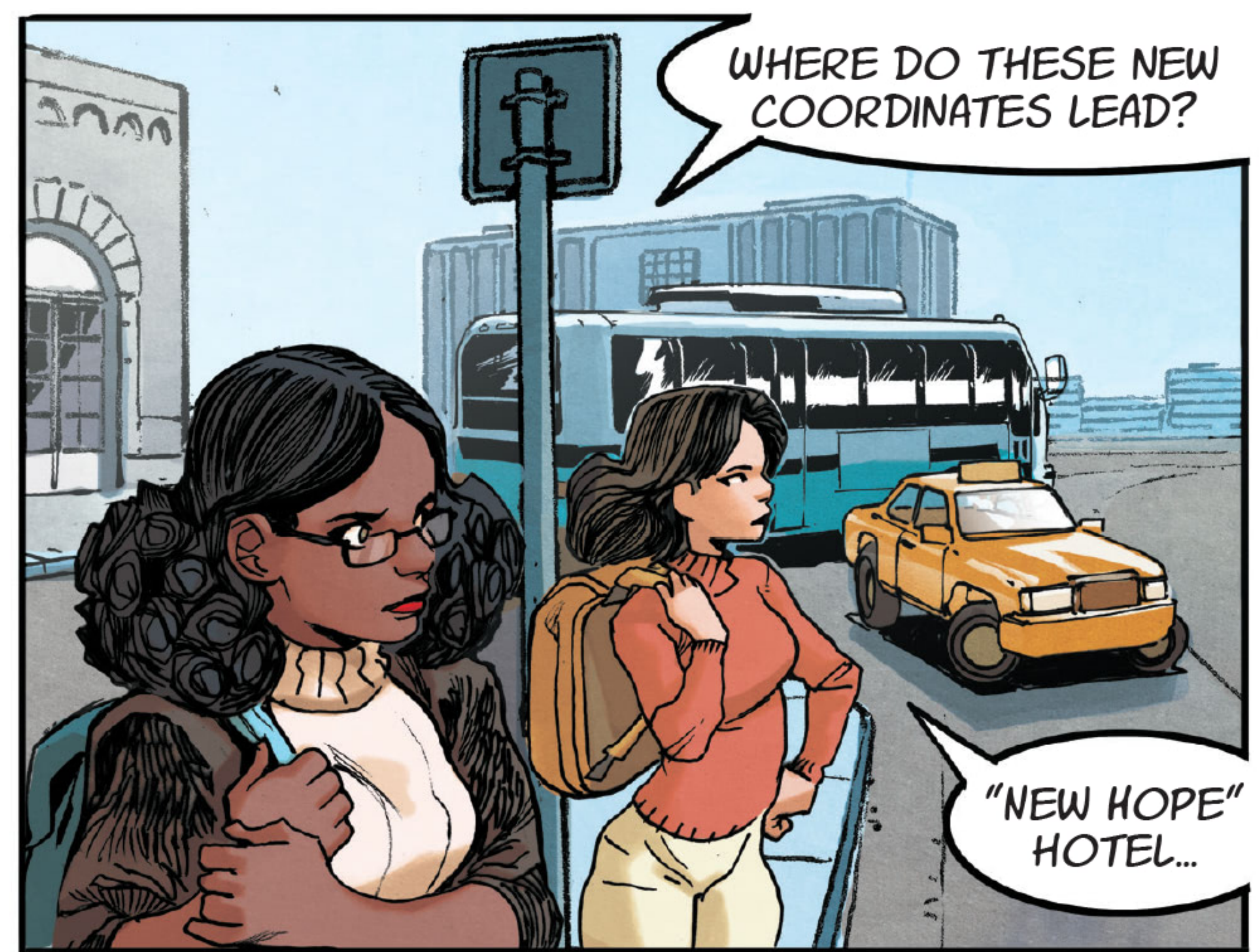
NO, I CREATED THE KLAU TO HELP FACE MY OWN CHALLENGES AND TO EASE MY CONSCIENCE...

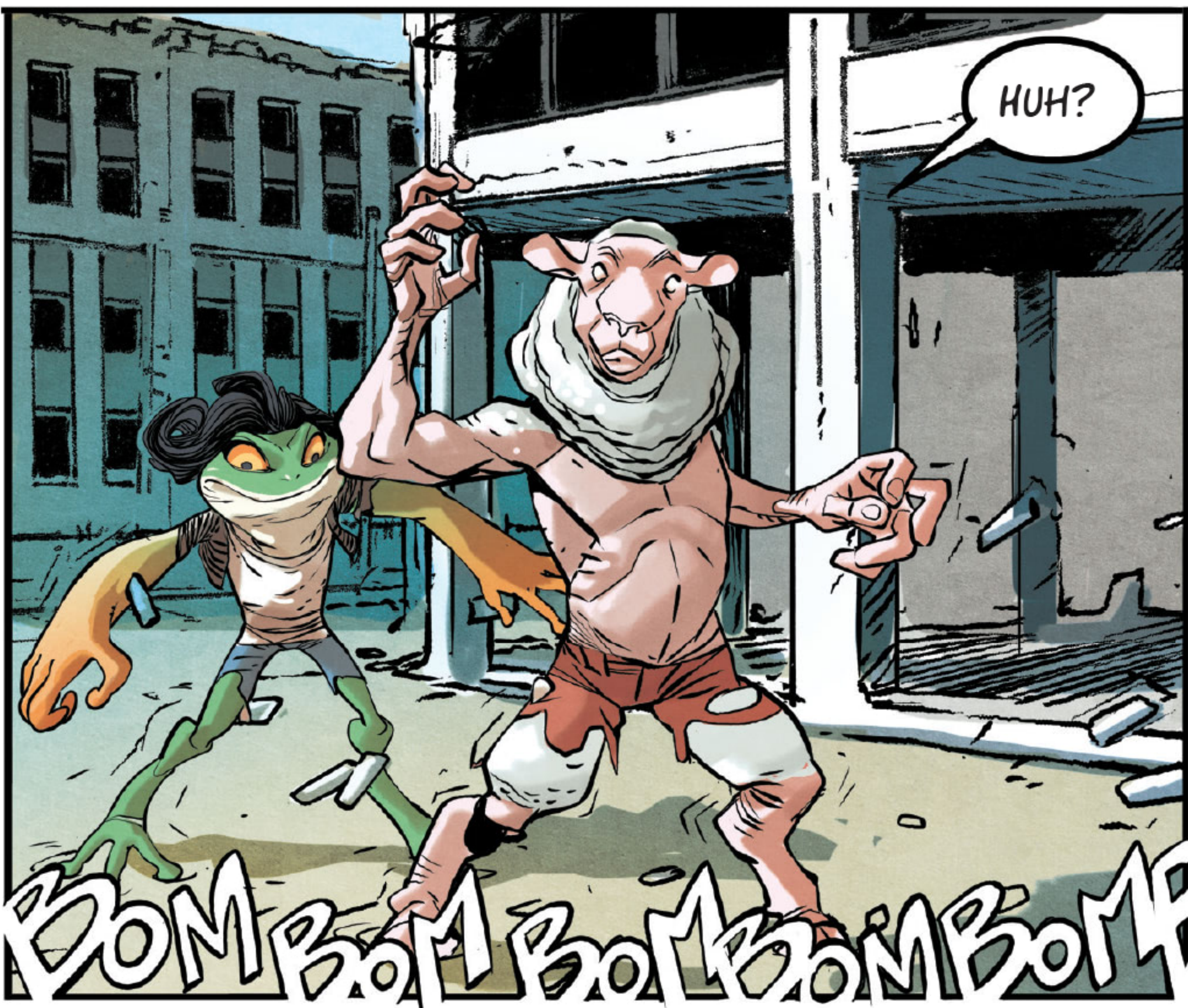
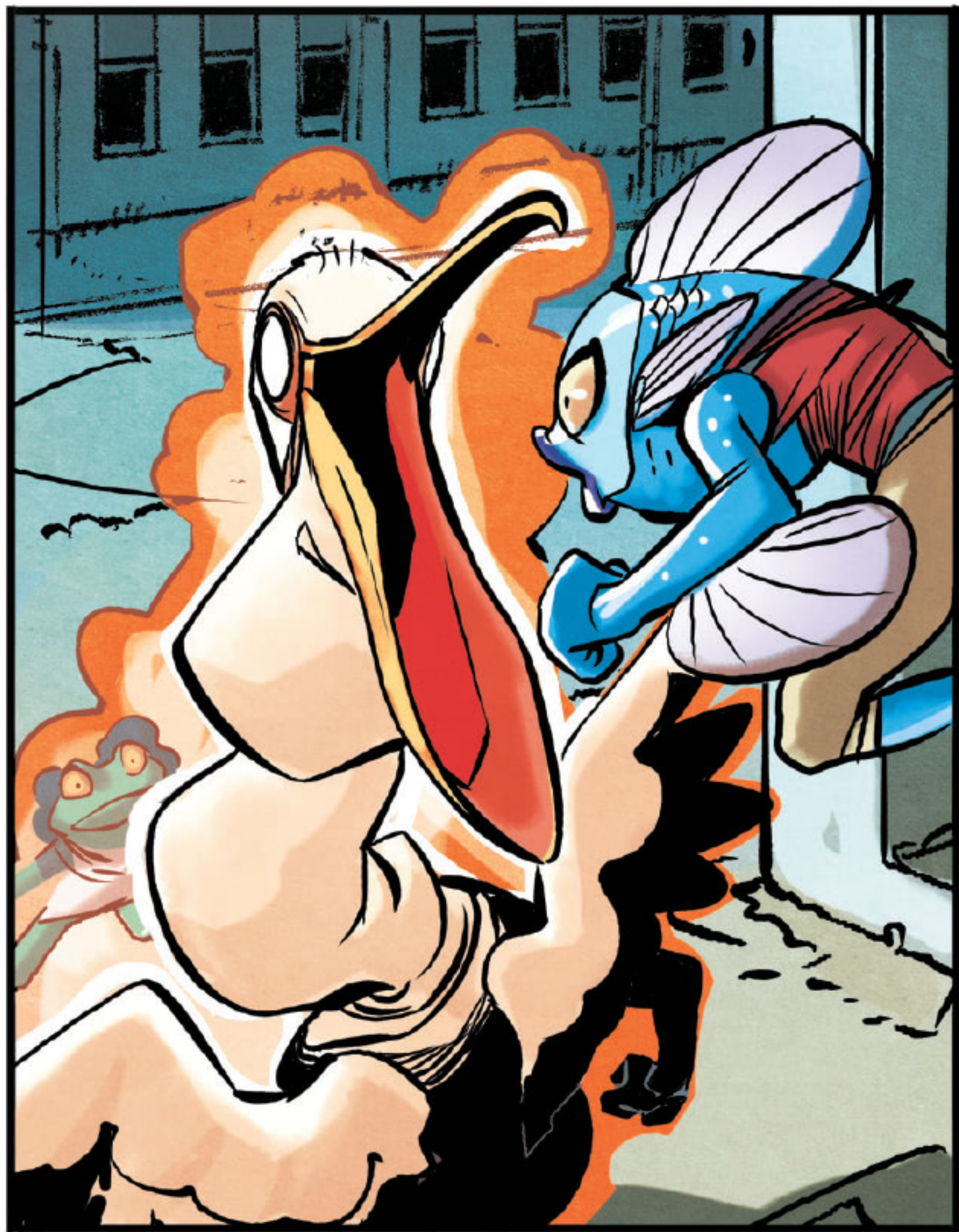


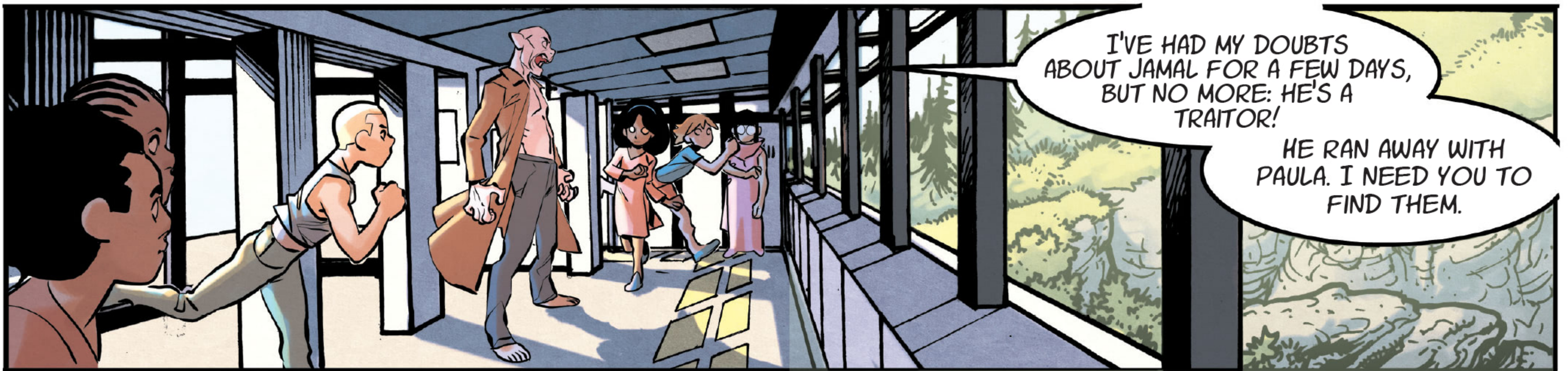
YEAH, SO? WHAT'S YOUR POINT?



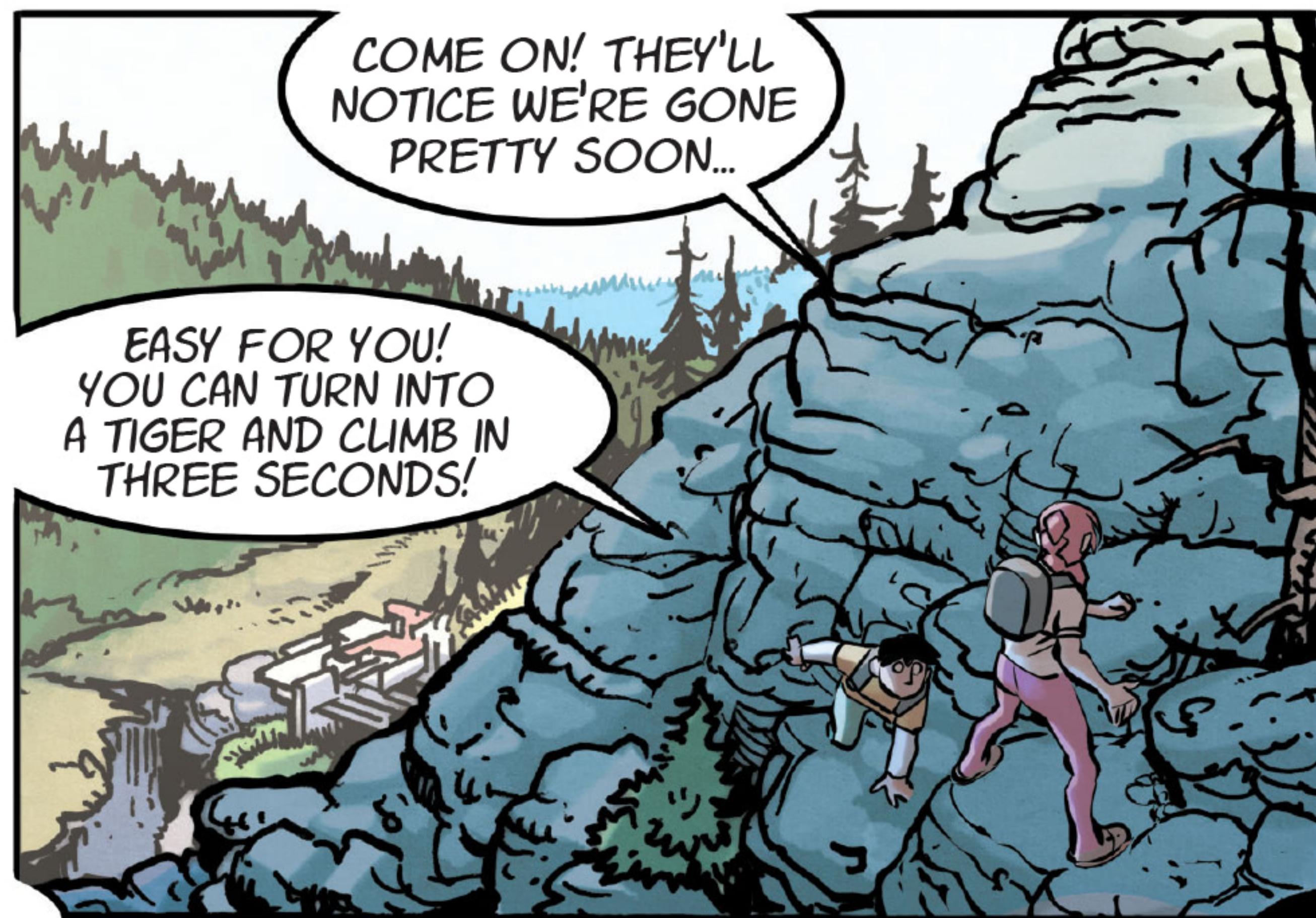








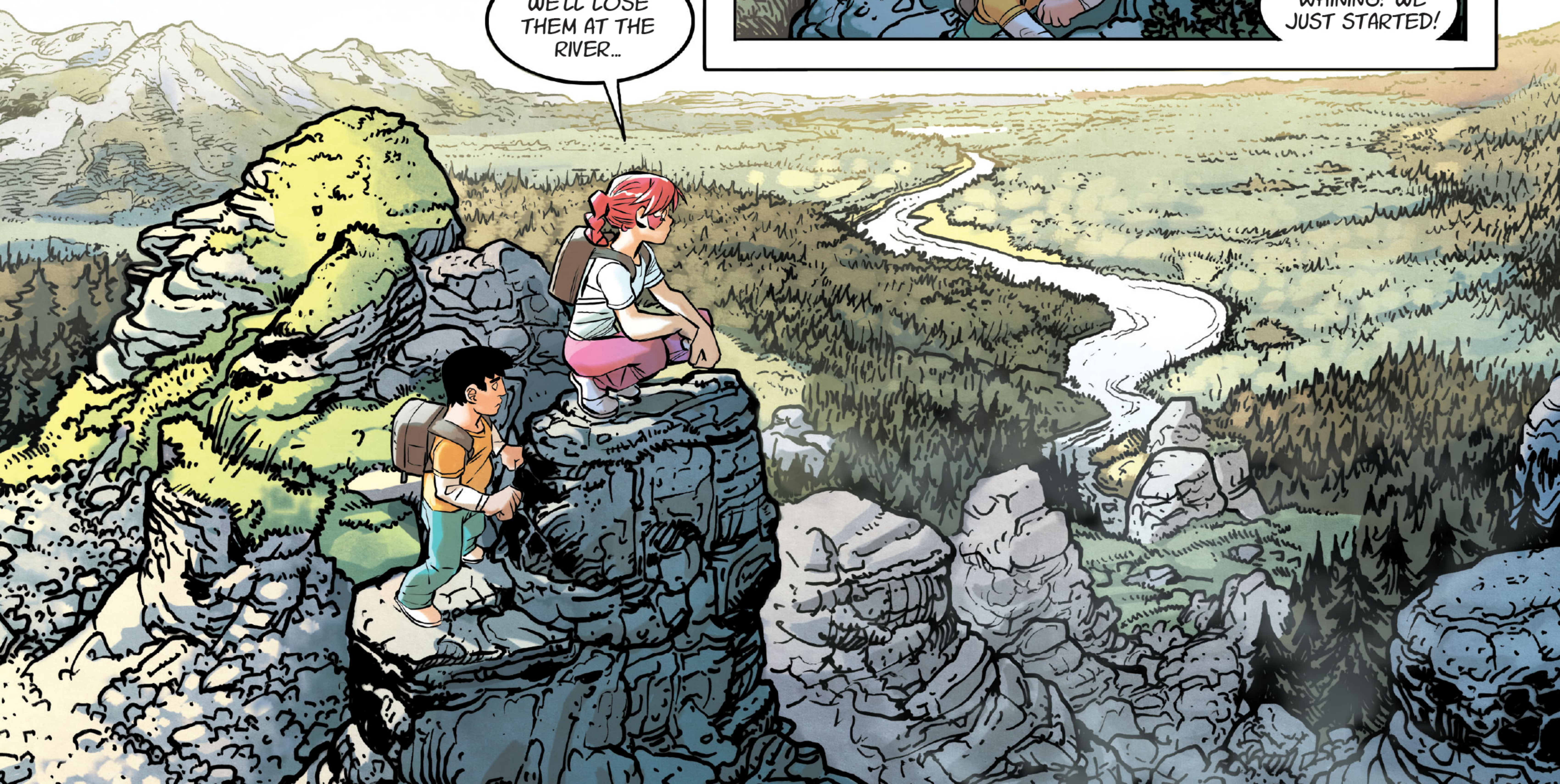
HURRY. AND STAY IN MENTAL CONTACT!

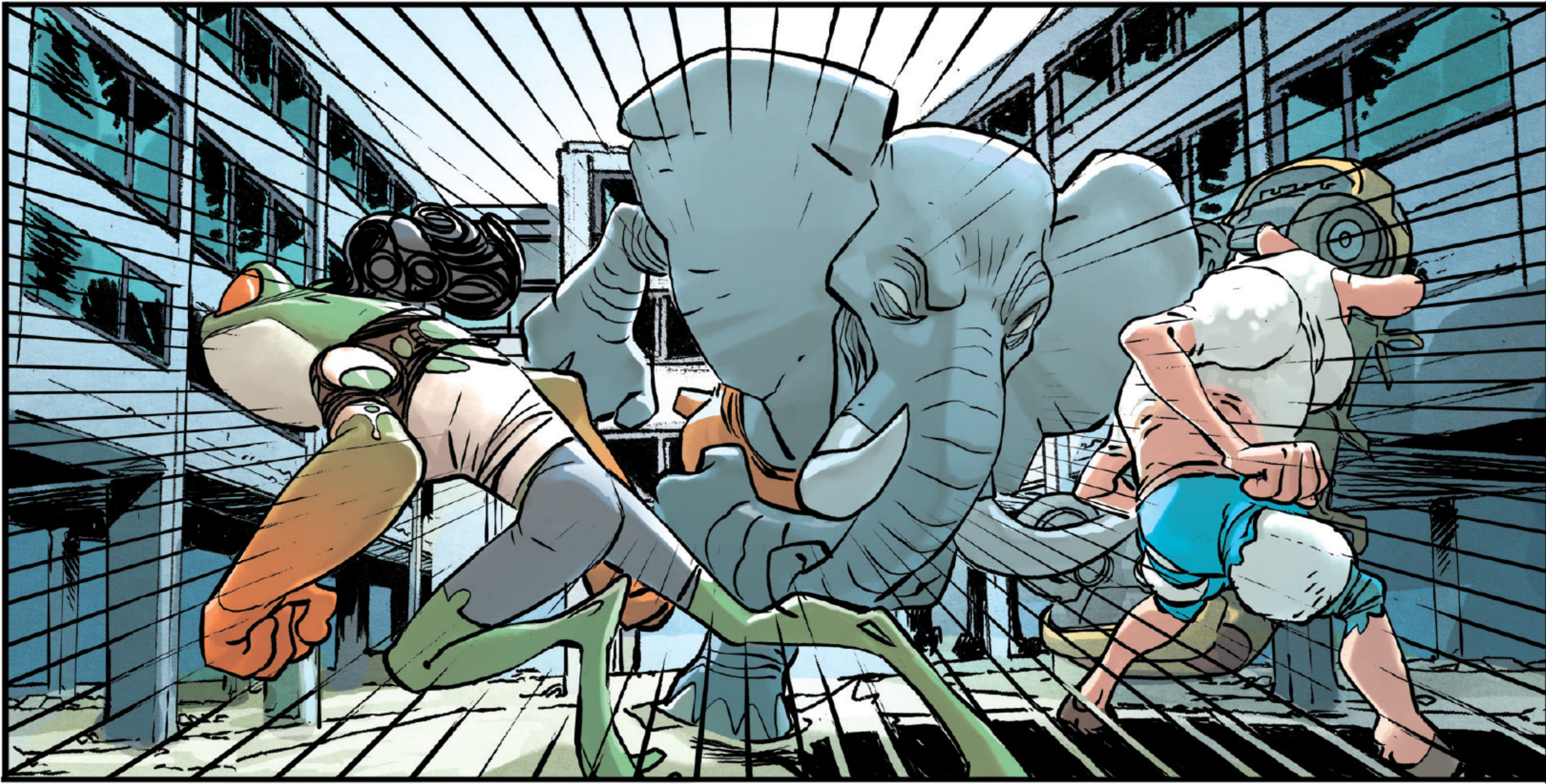


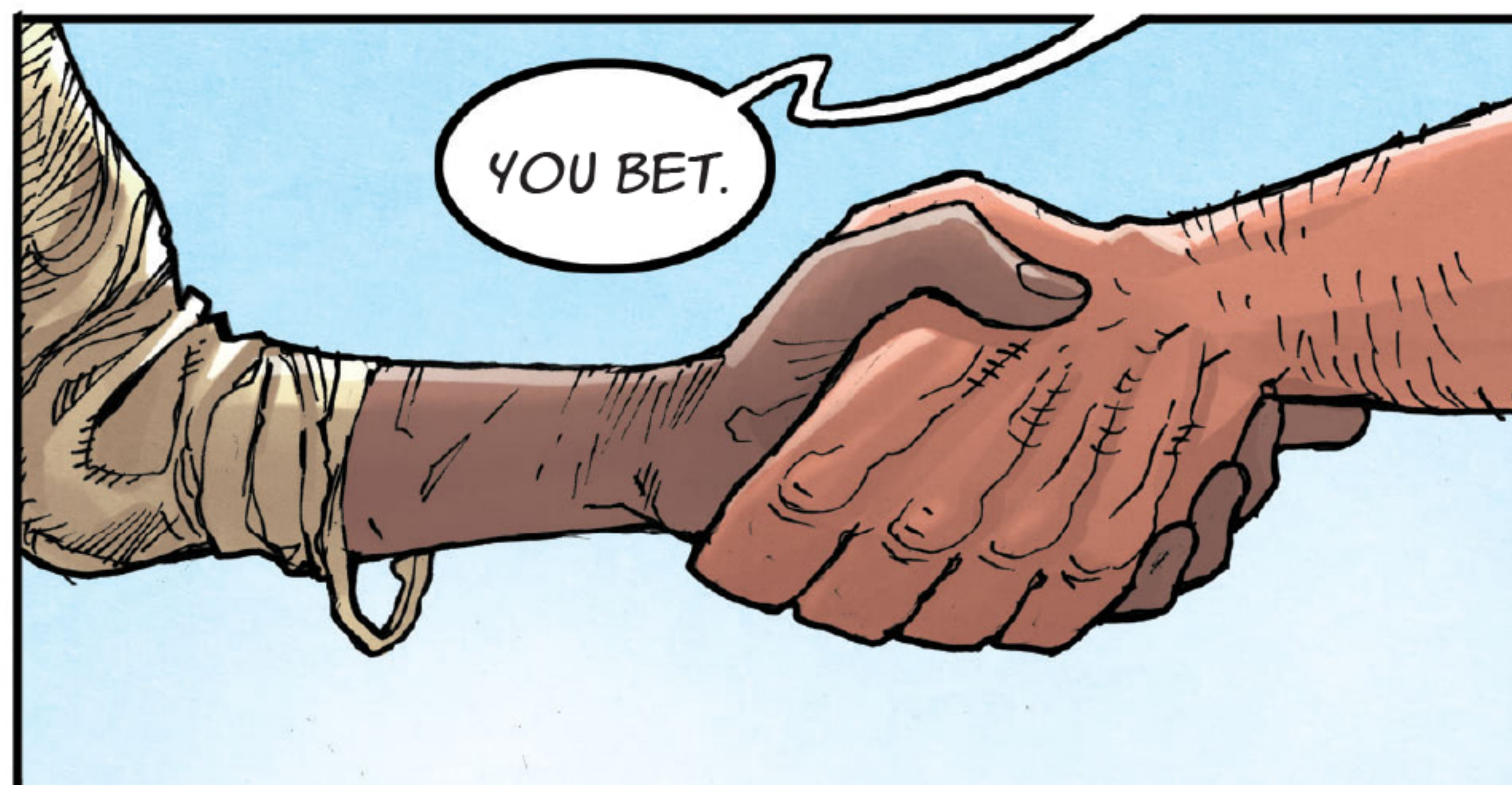
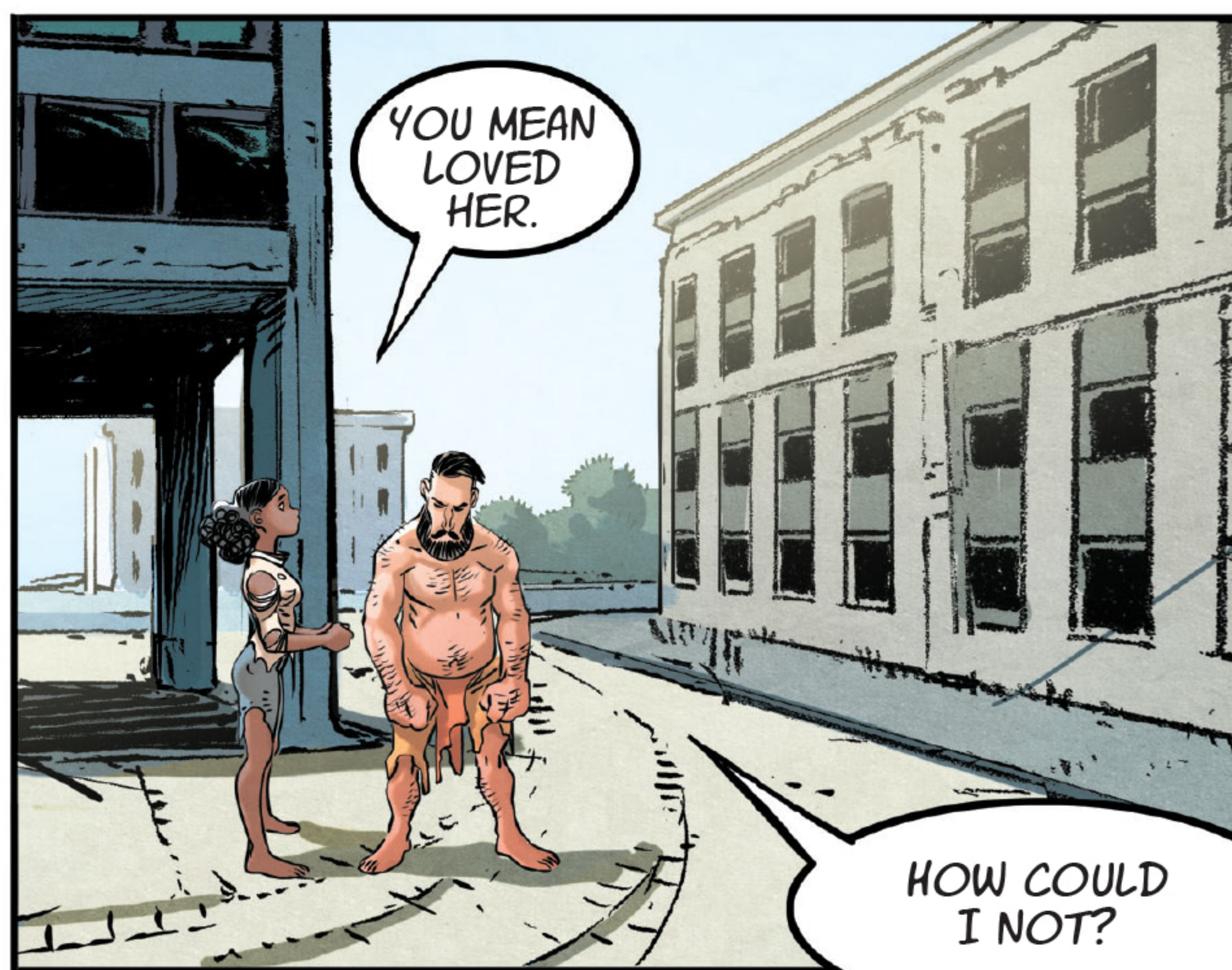
STOP WHINING! WE JUST STARTED!

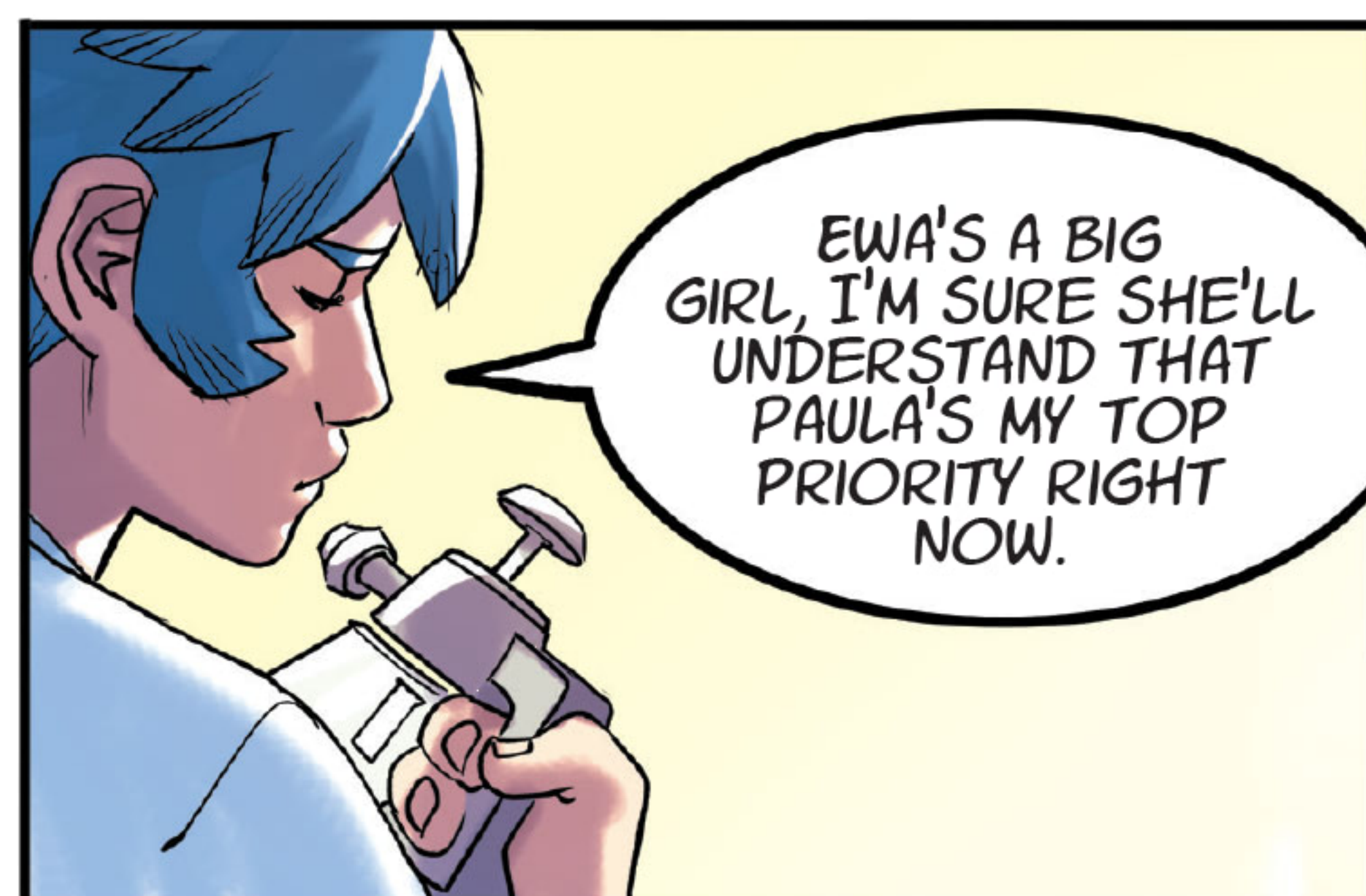
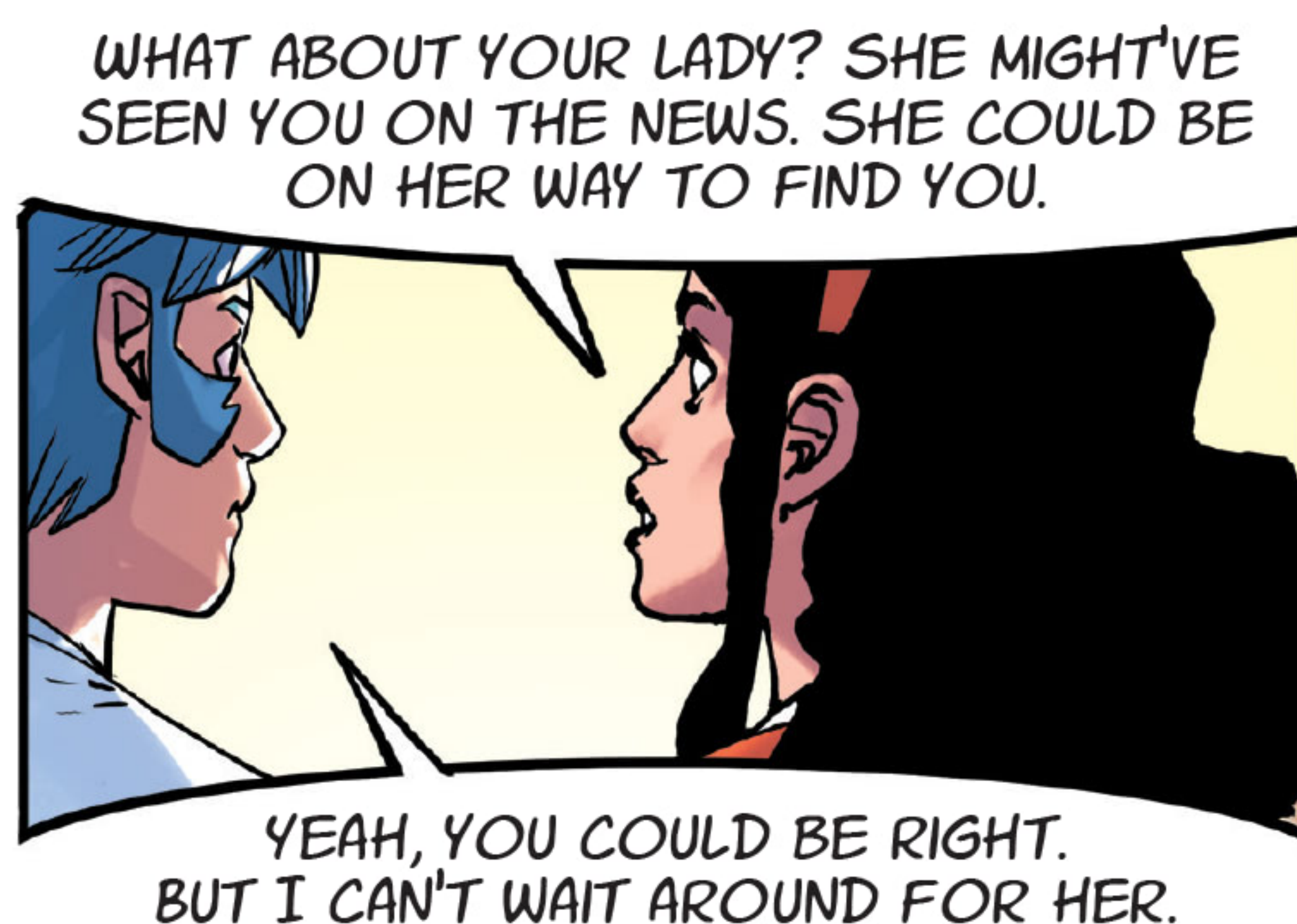


WE'LL LOSE THEM AT THE RIVER...

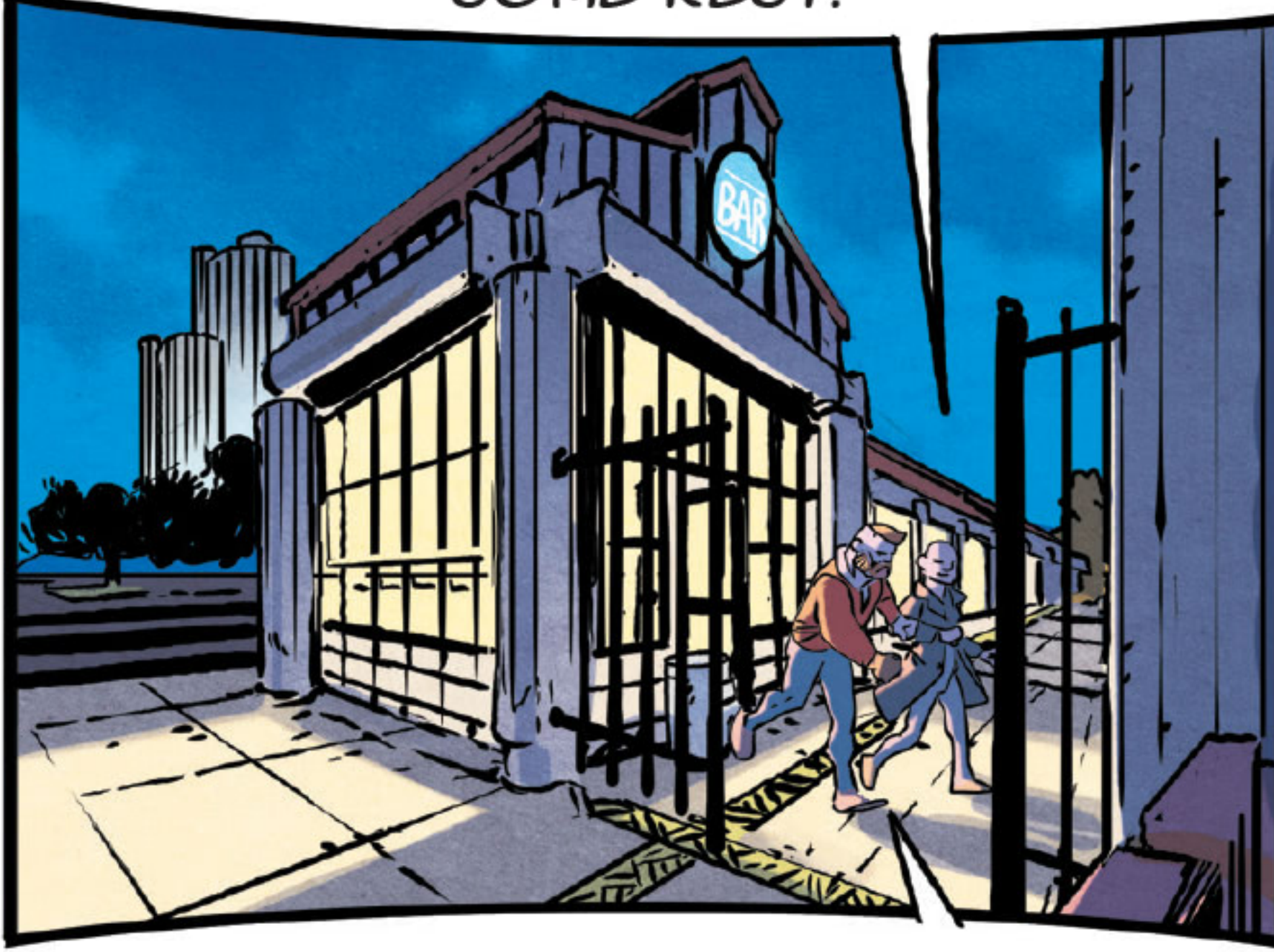




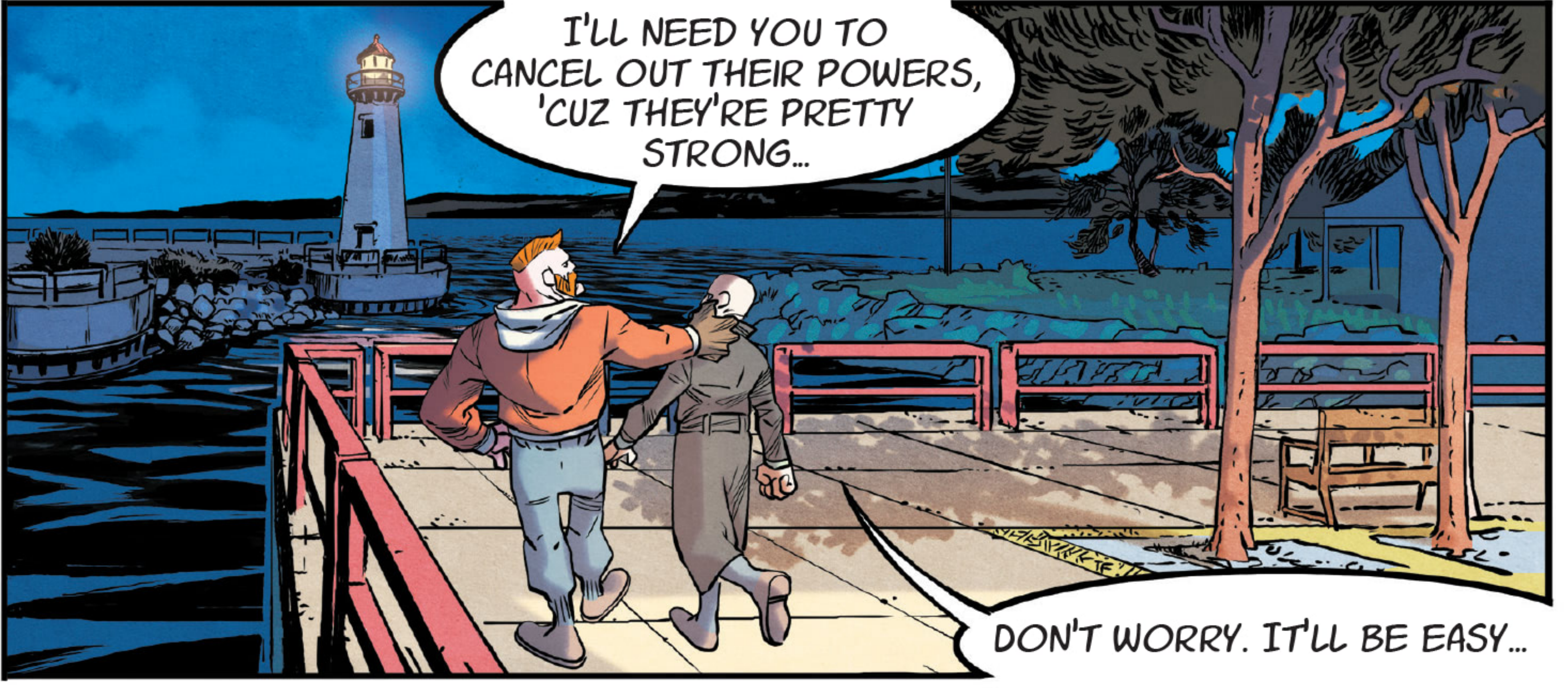




COME ON, IF WE'RE GONNA FIGHT THE TIGER TOMORROW, WE SHOULD GET SOME REST.



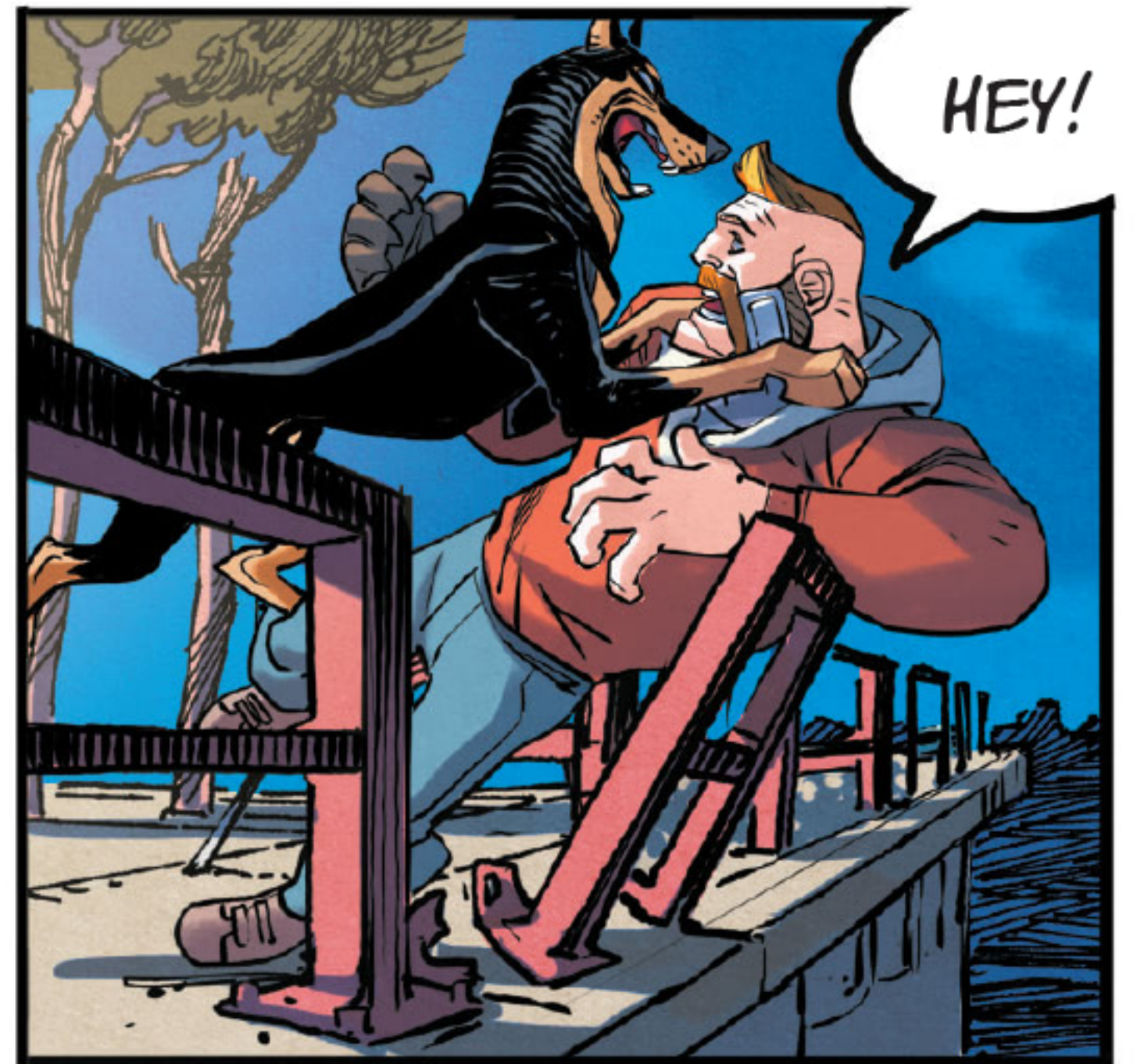
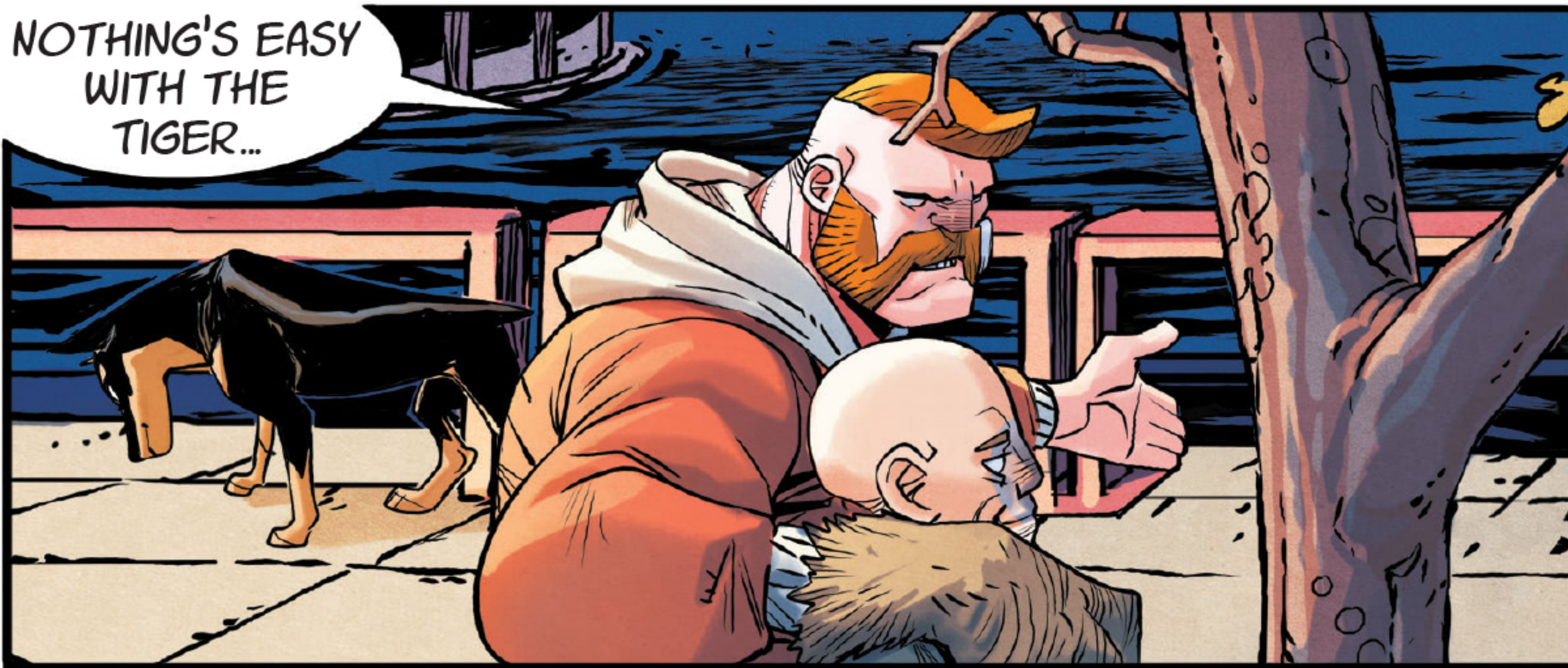
YEAH, YEAH, BUT WE HAVE TO SEAL OUR PACT!



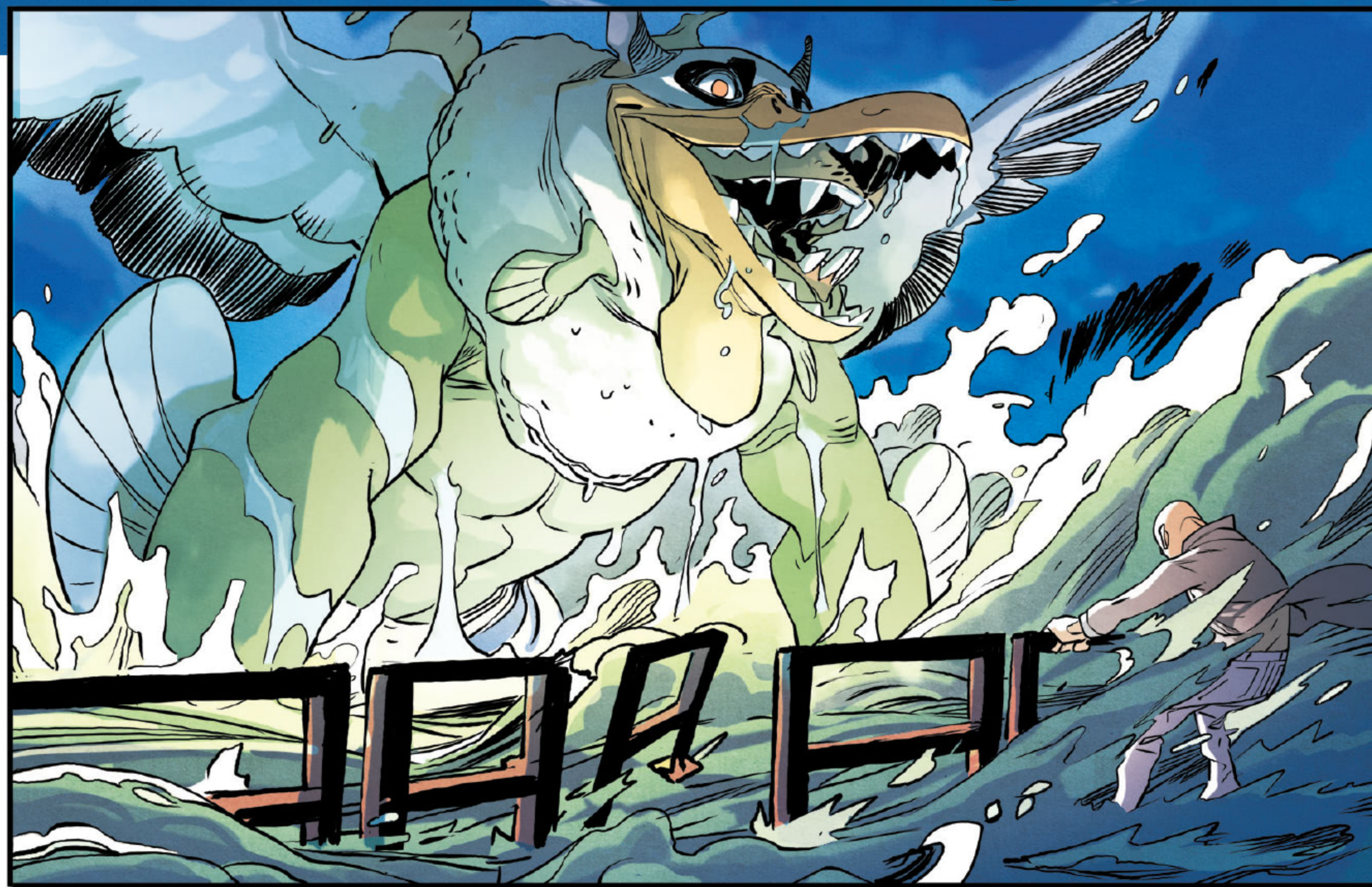
I'LL NEED YOU TO CANCEL OUT THEIR POWERS, 'CUZ THEY'RE PRETTY STRONG...

DON'T WORRY. IT'LL BE EASY...

NOTHING'S EASY WITH THE TIGER...

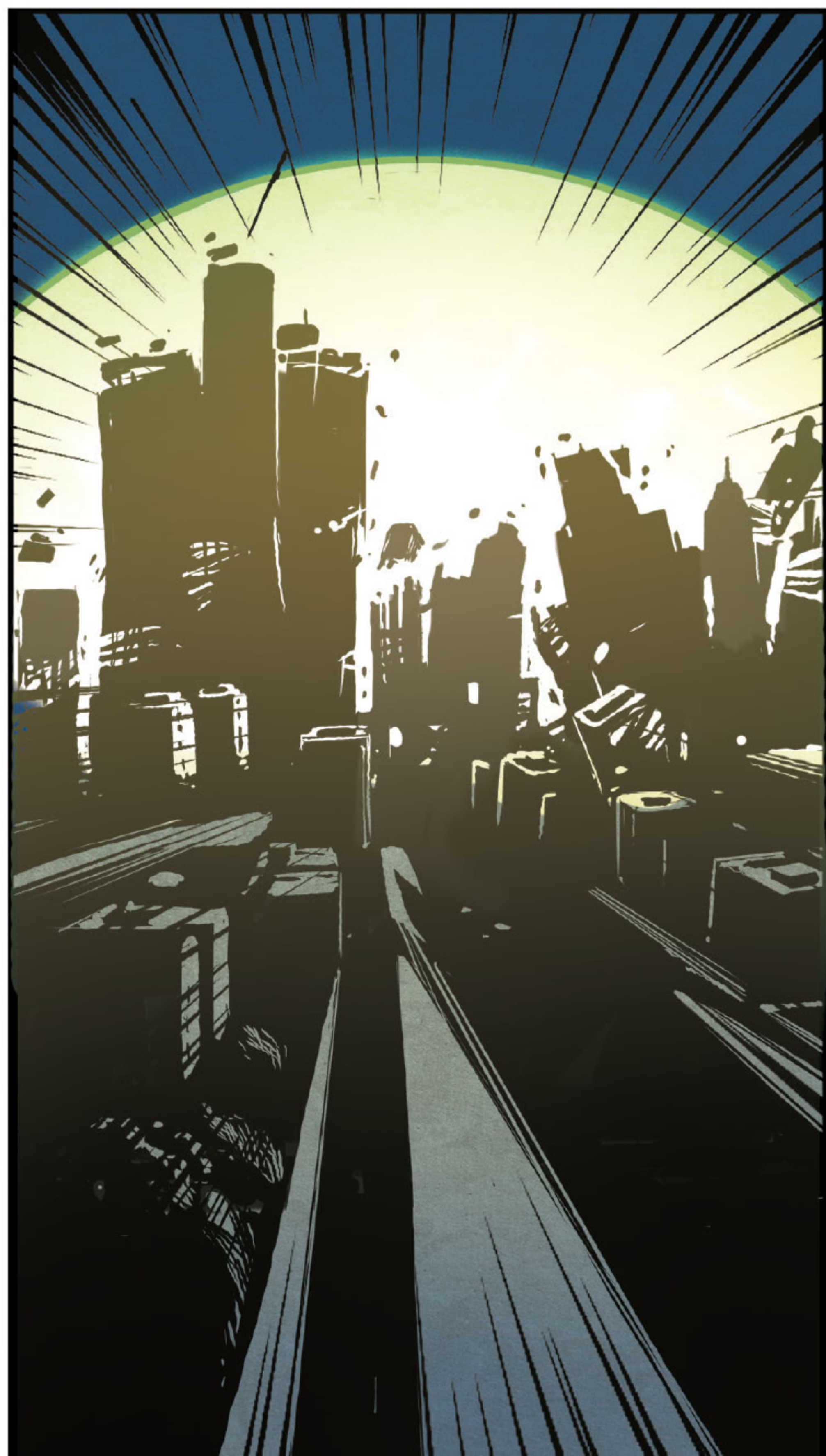
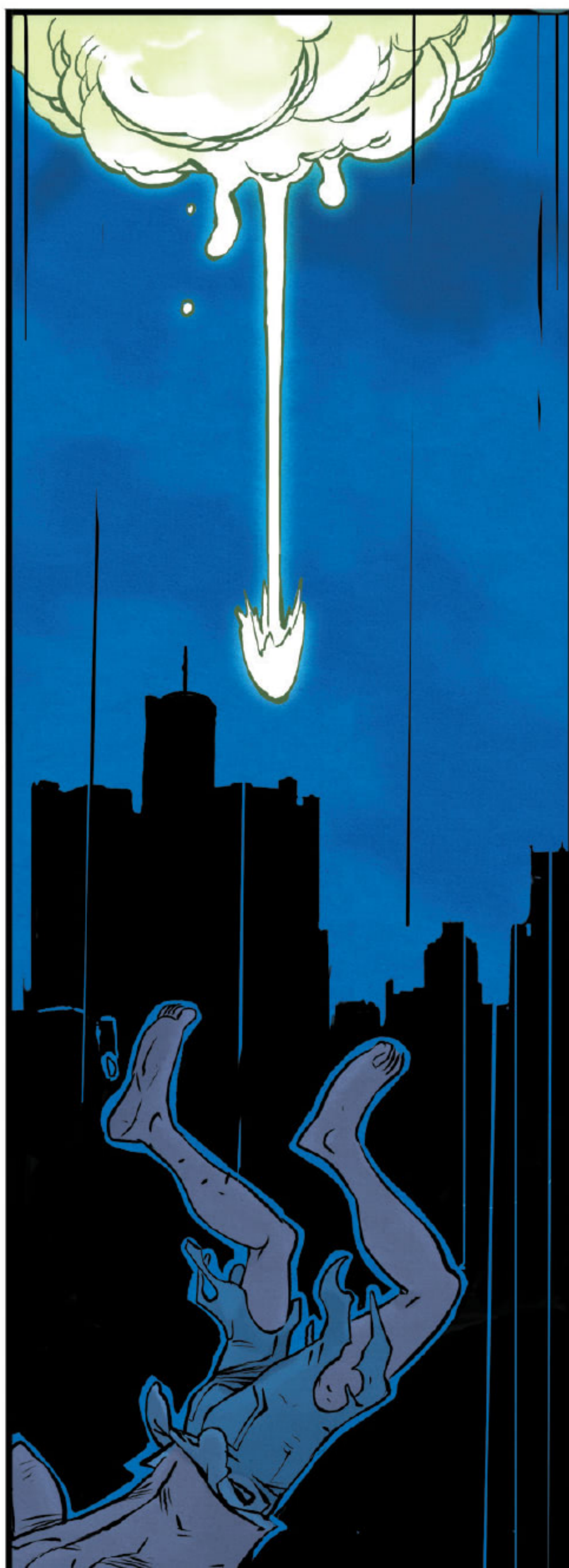
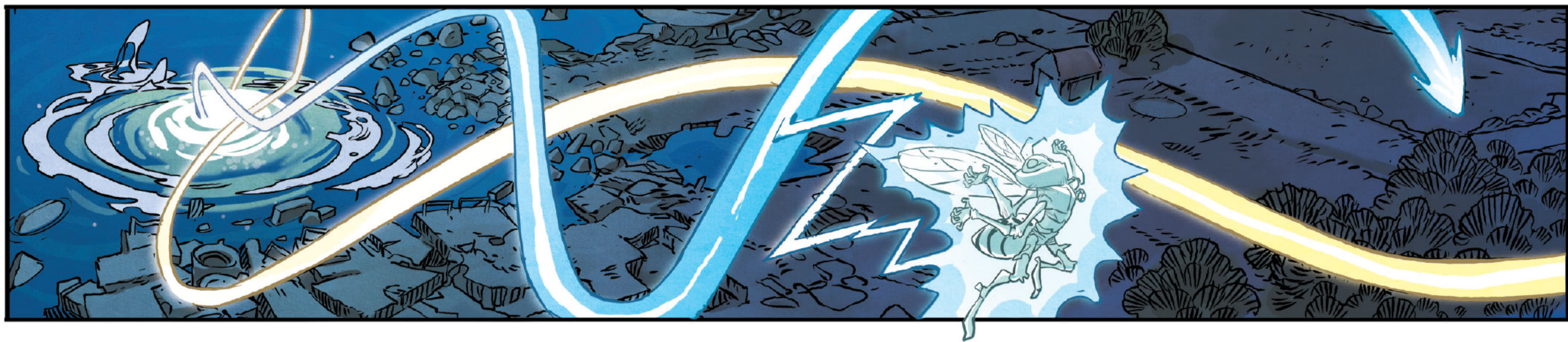
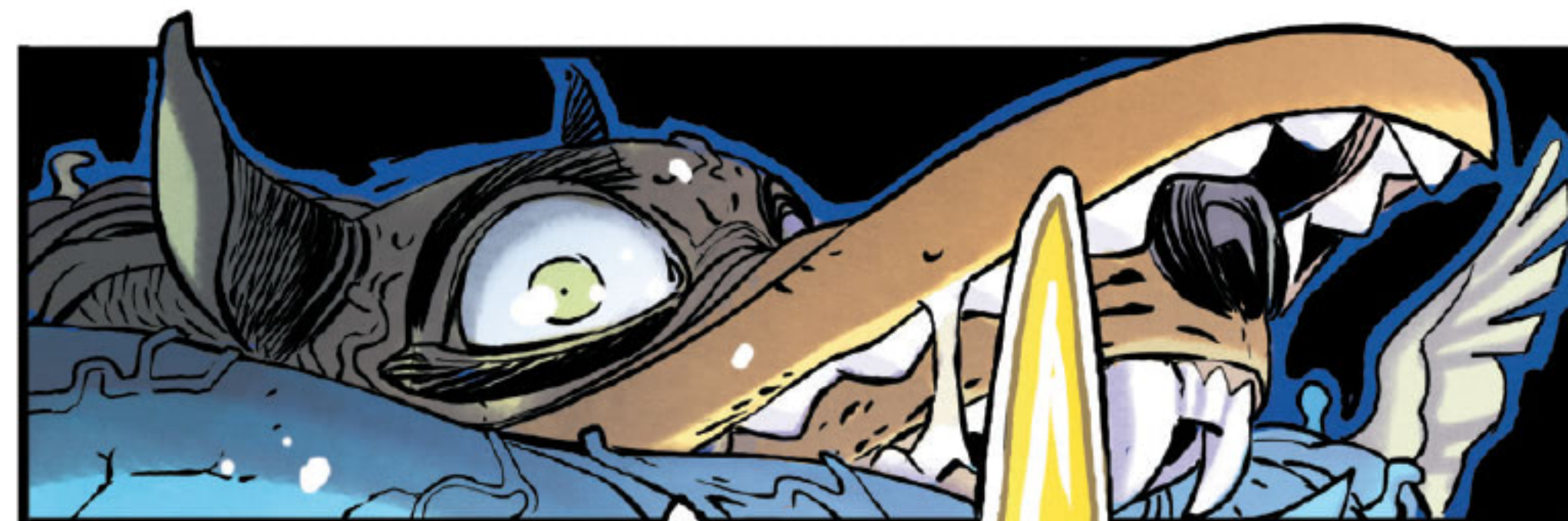


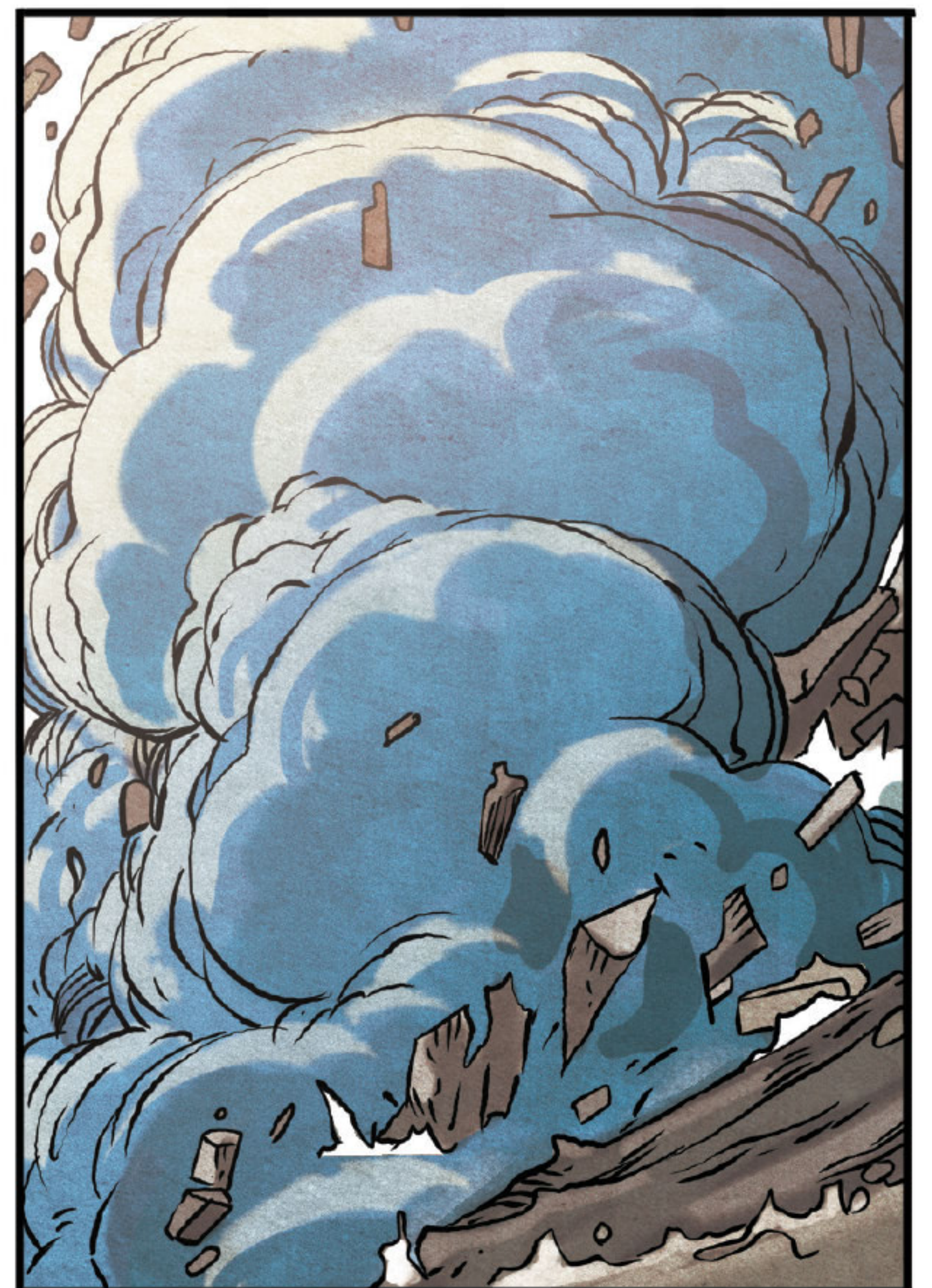
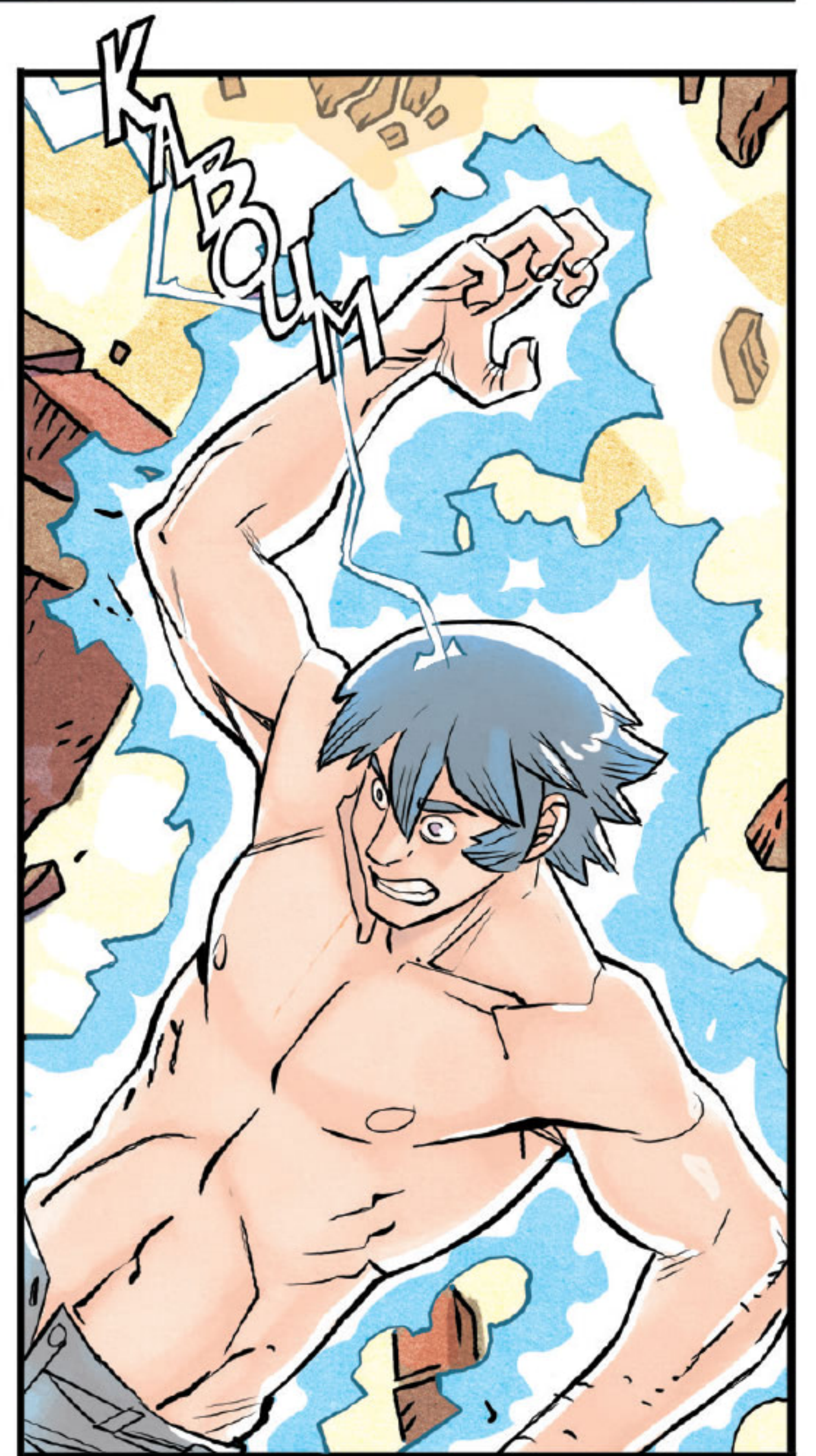
HEY!

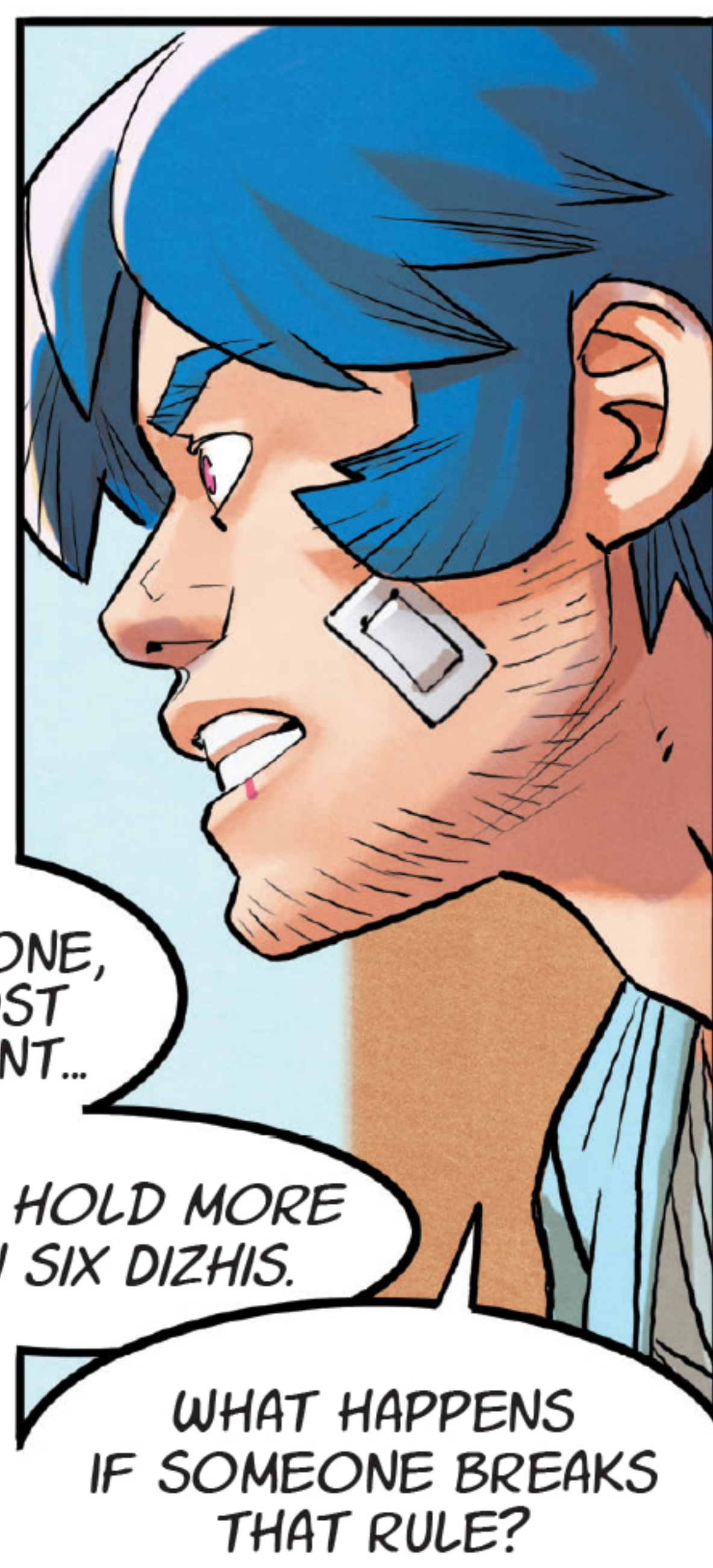
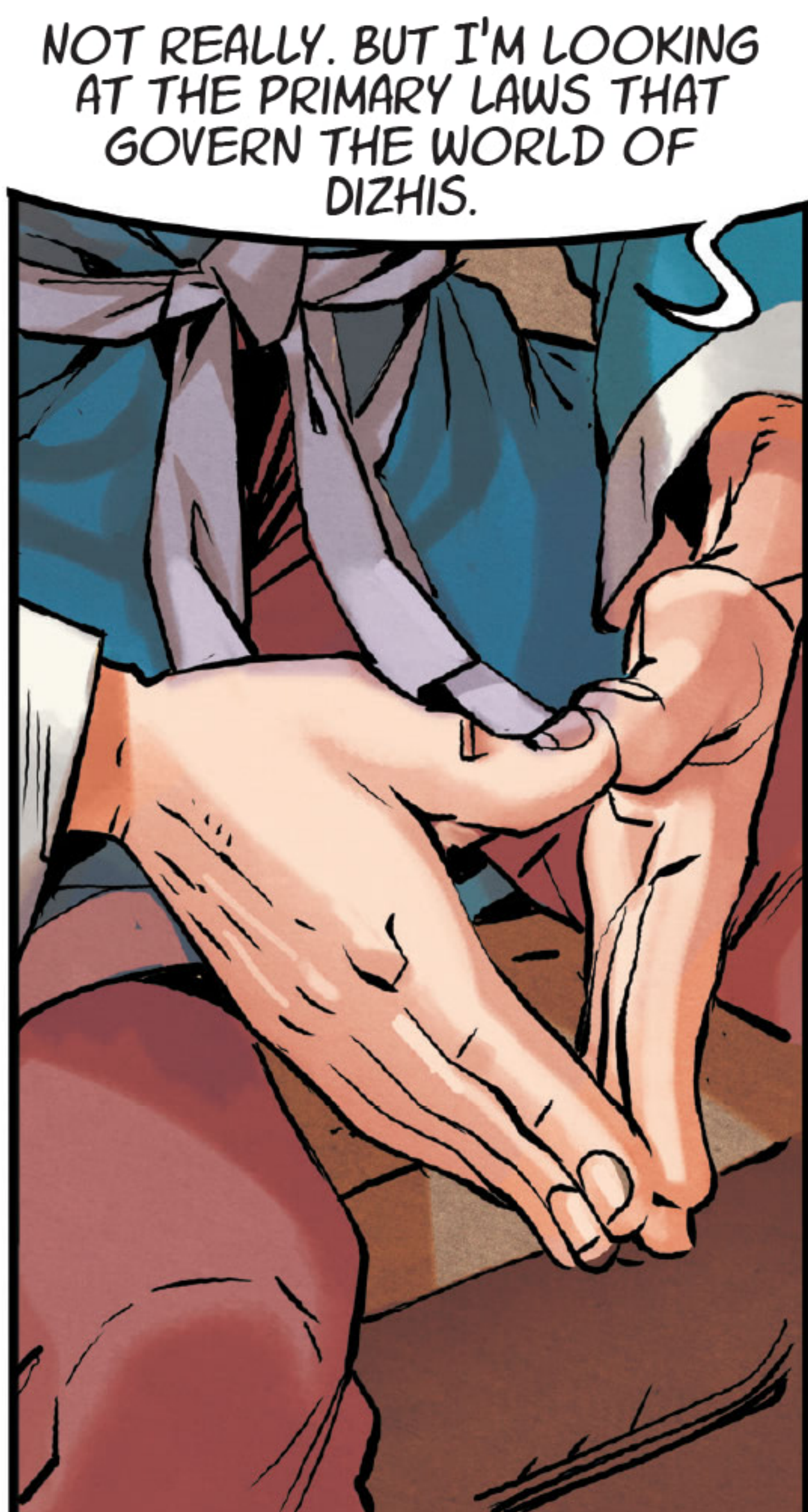
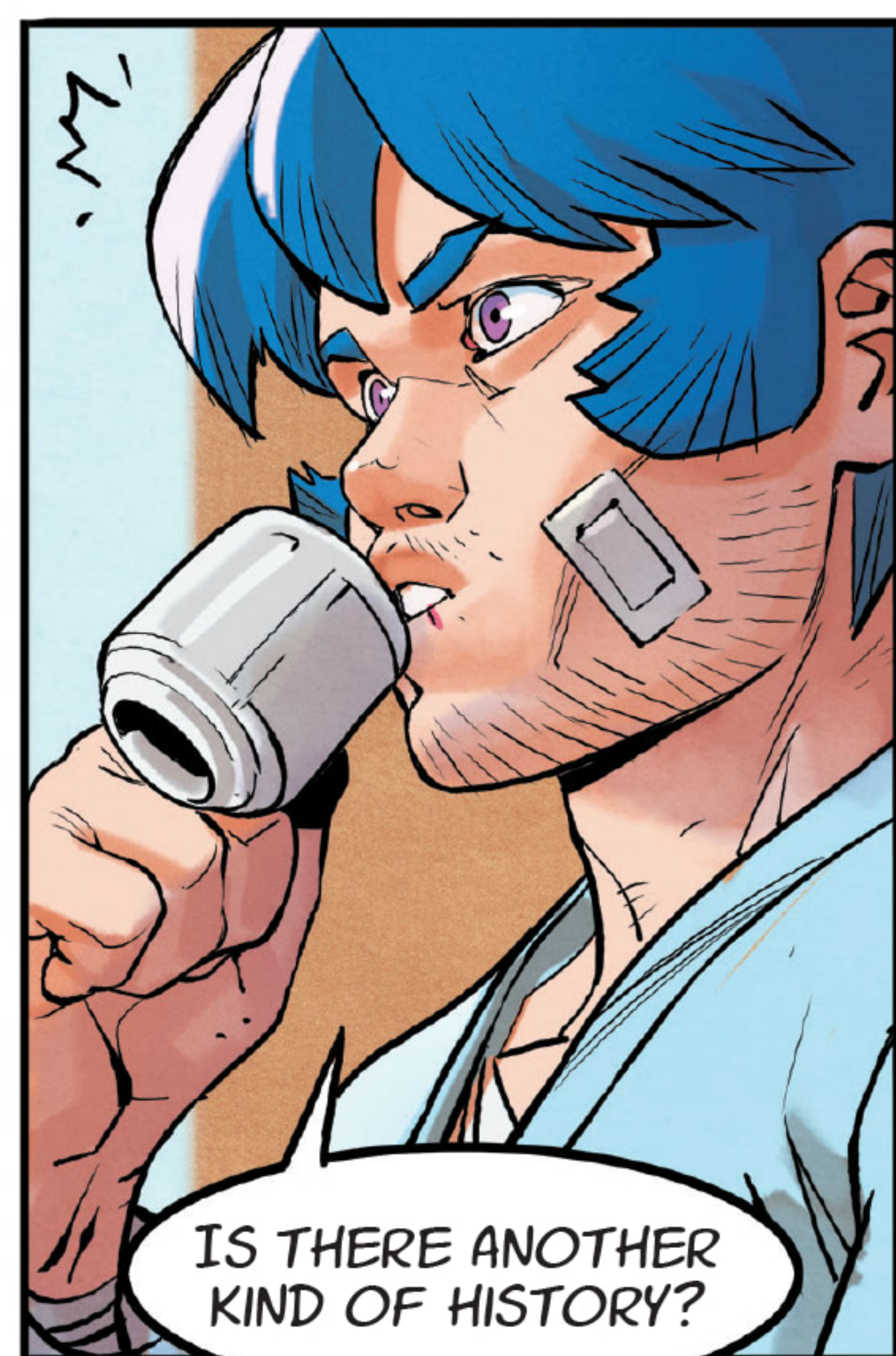
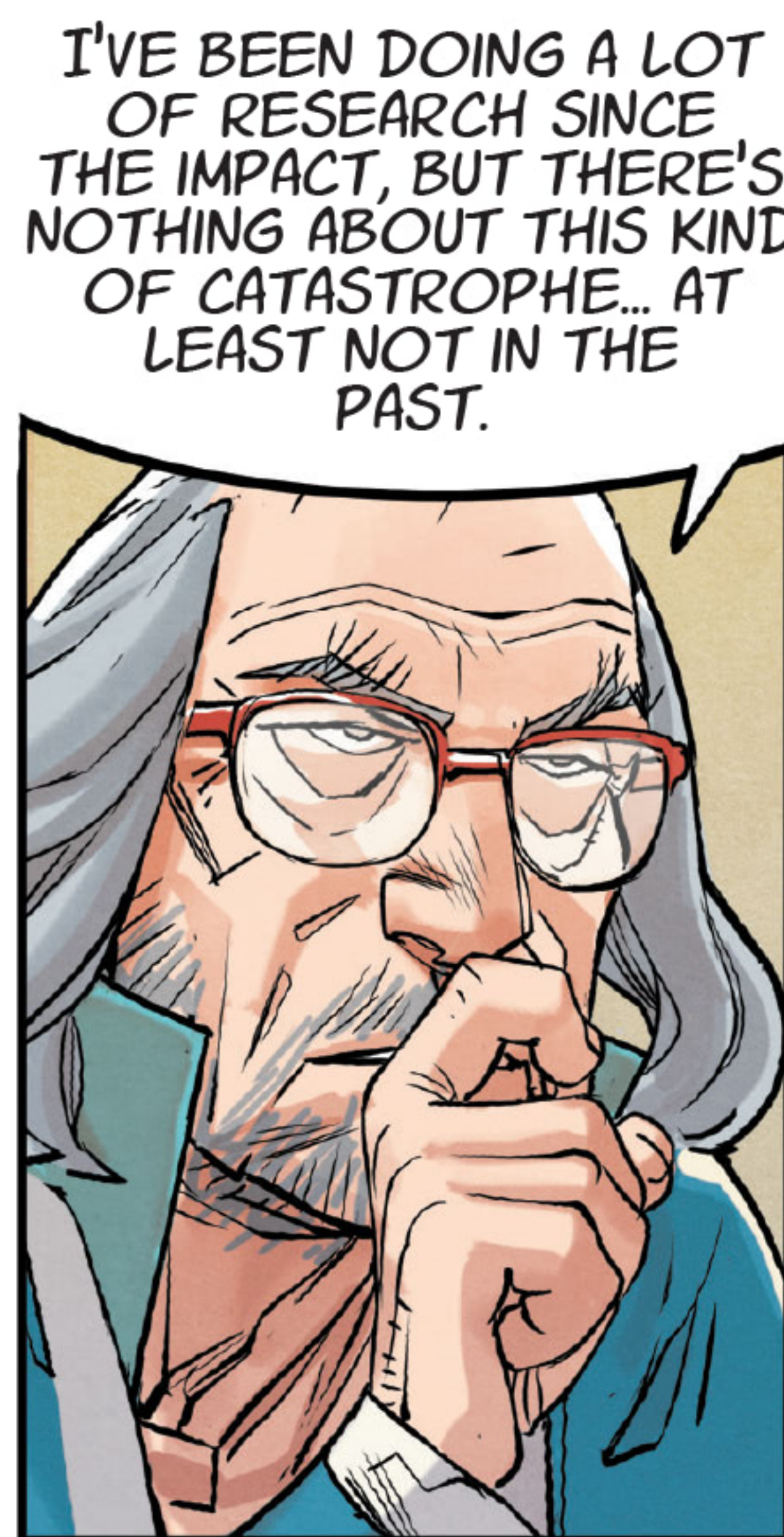
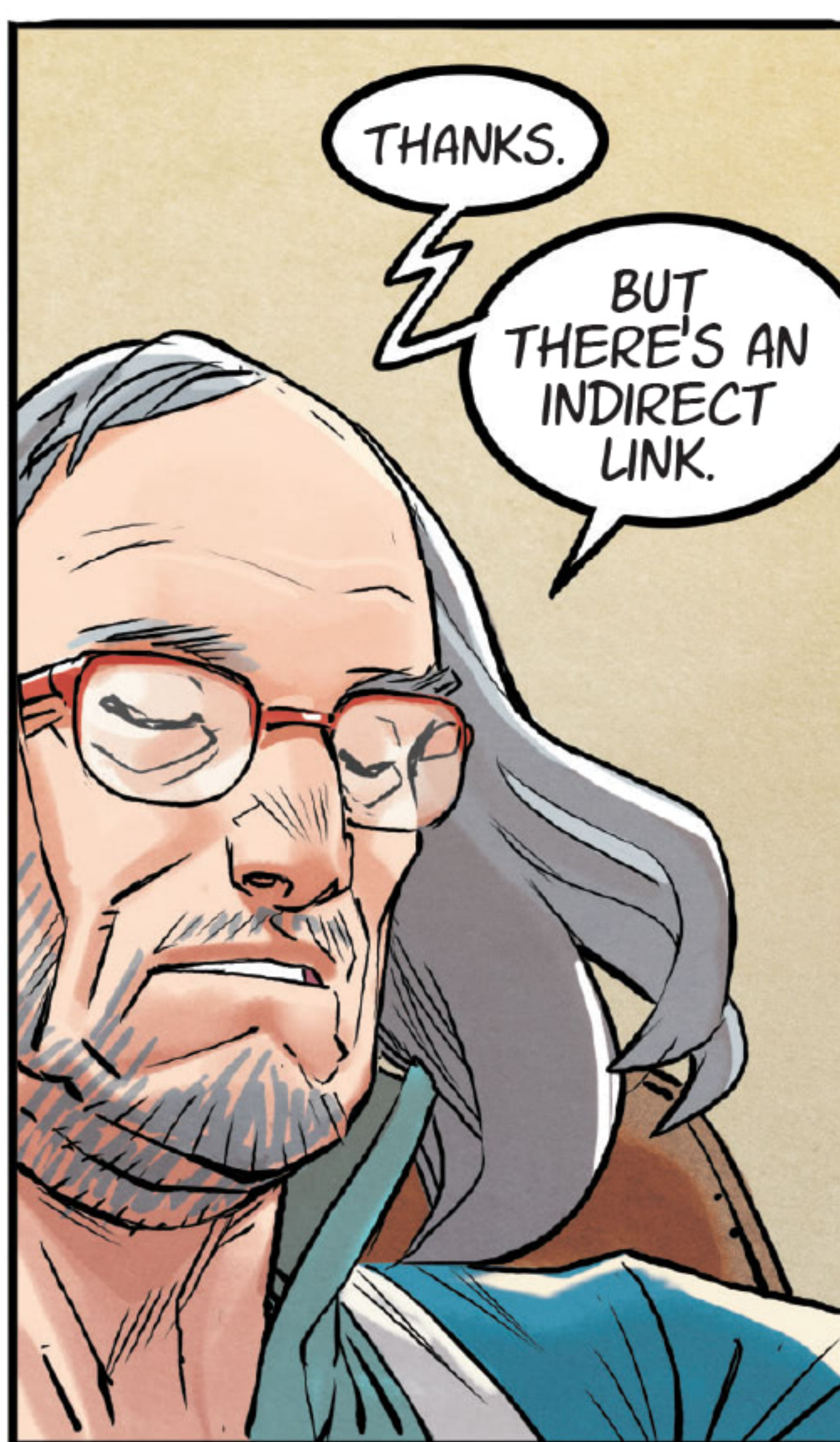


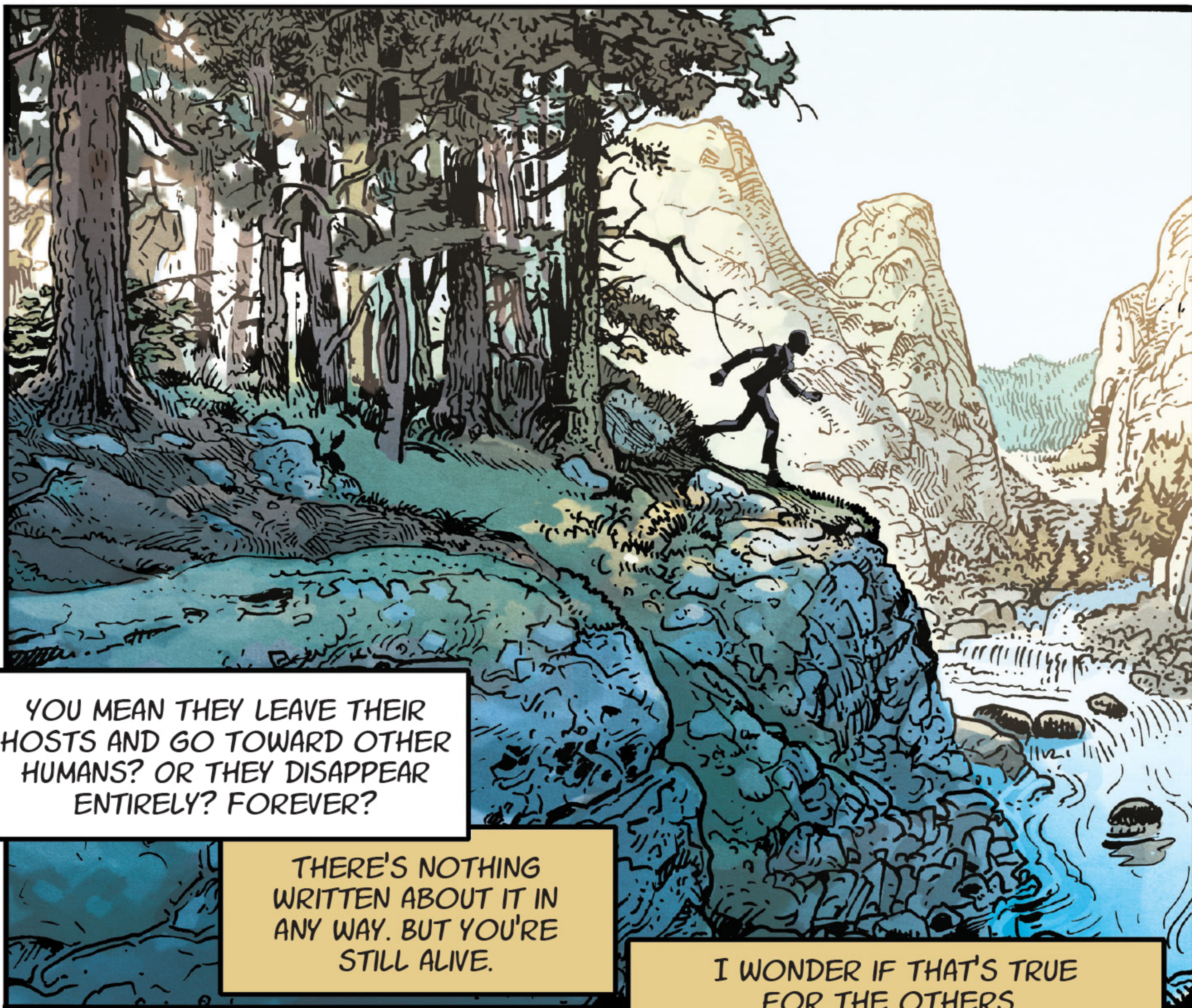
NEIL?!

WHAT'D YOU DO?!





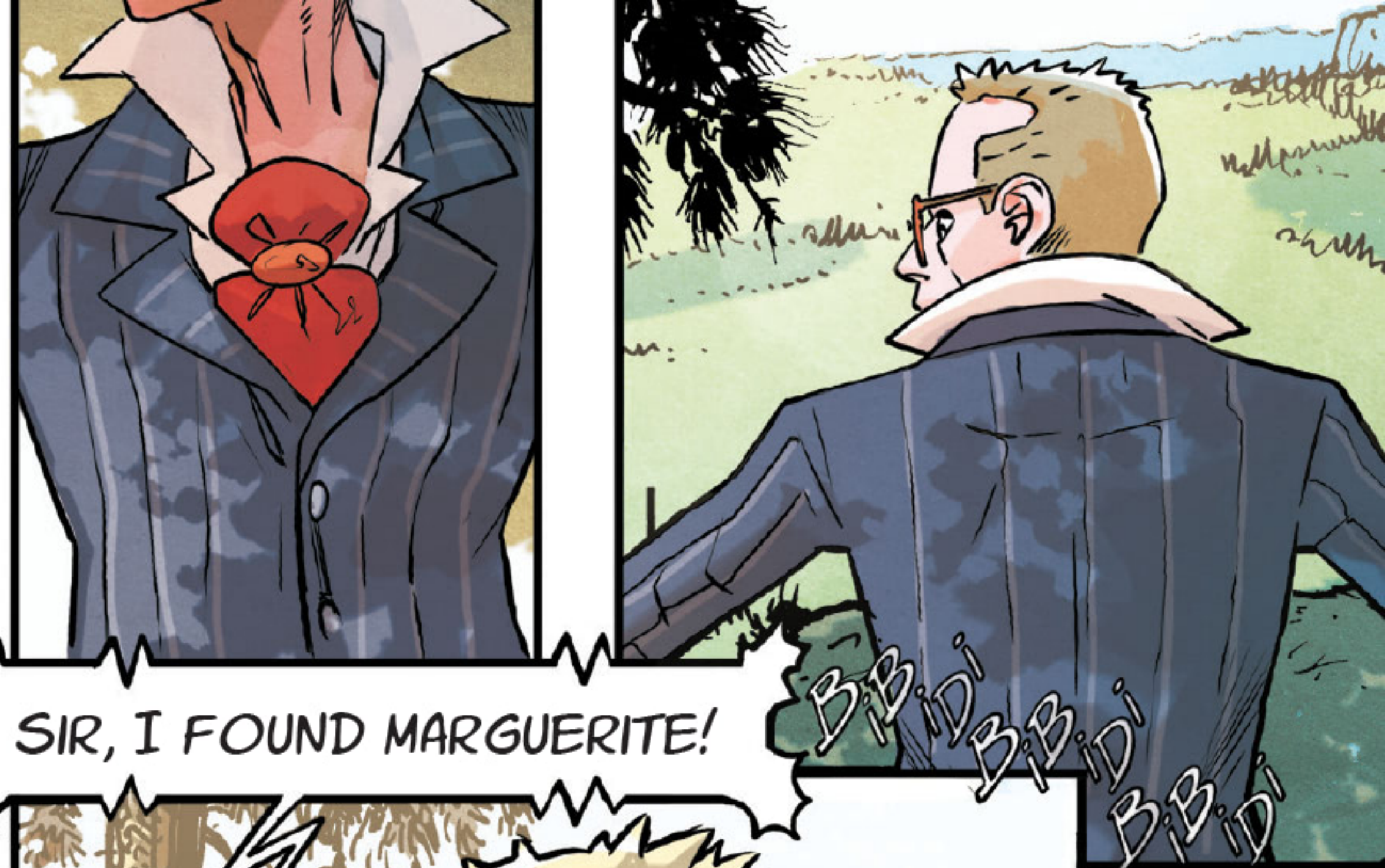




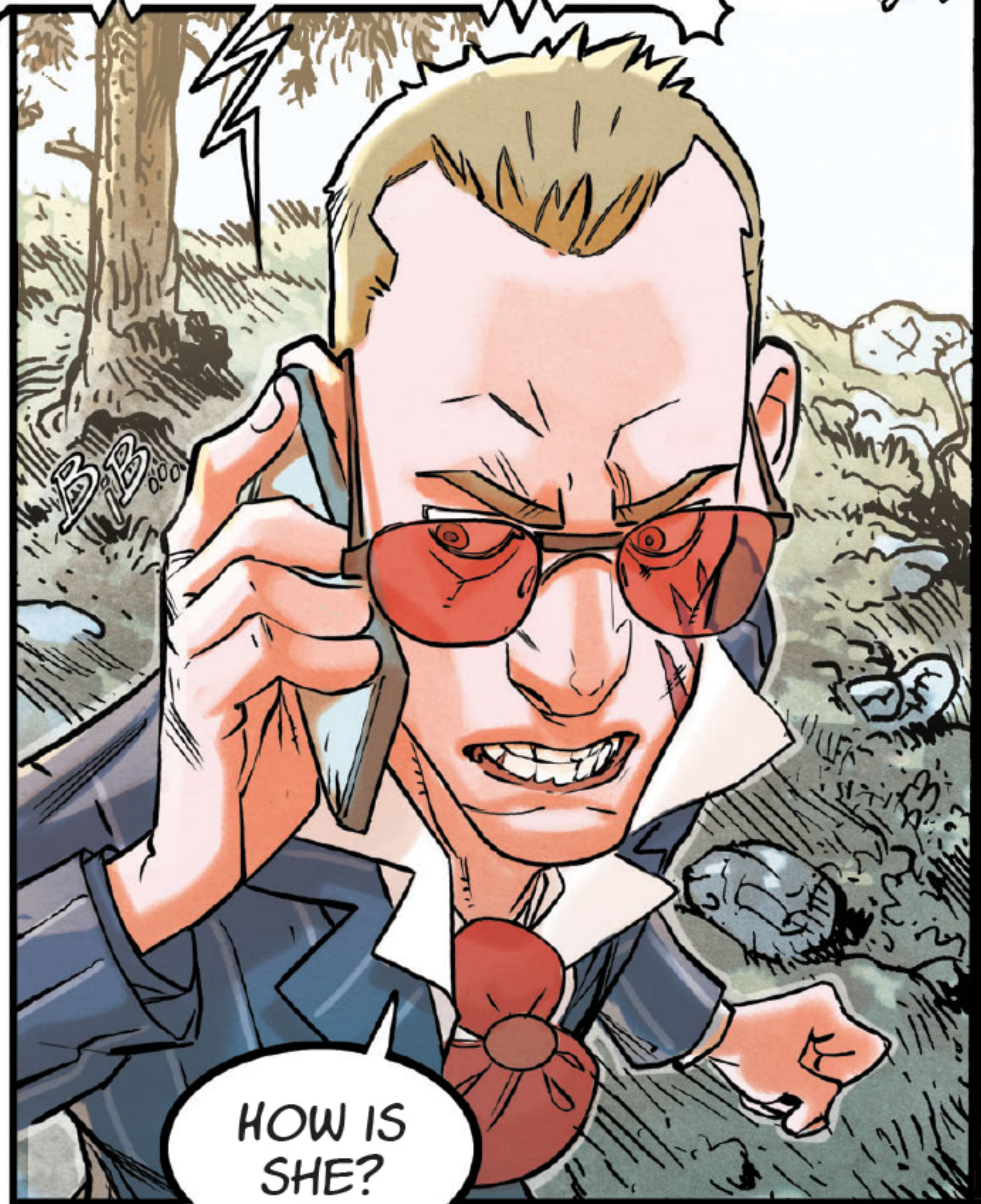
YOU MEAN THEY LEAVE THEIR HOSTS AND GO TOWARD OTHER HUMANS? OR THEY DISAPPEAR ENTIRELY? FOREVER?

THERE'S NOTHING WRITTEN ABOUT IT IN ANY WAY. BUT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.

I WONDER IF THAT'S TRUE FOR THE OTHERS...



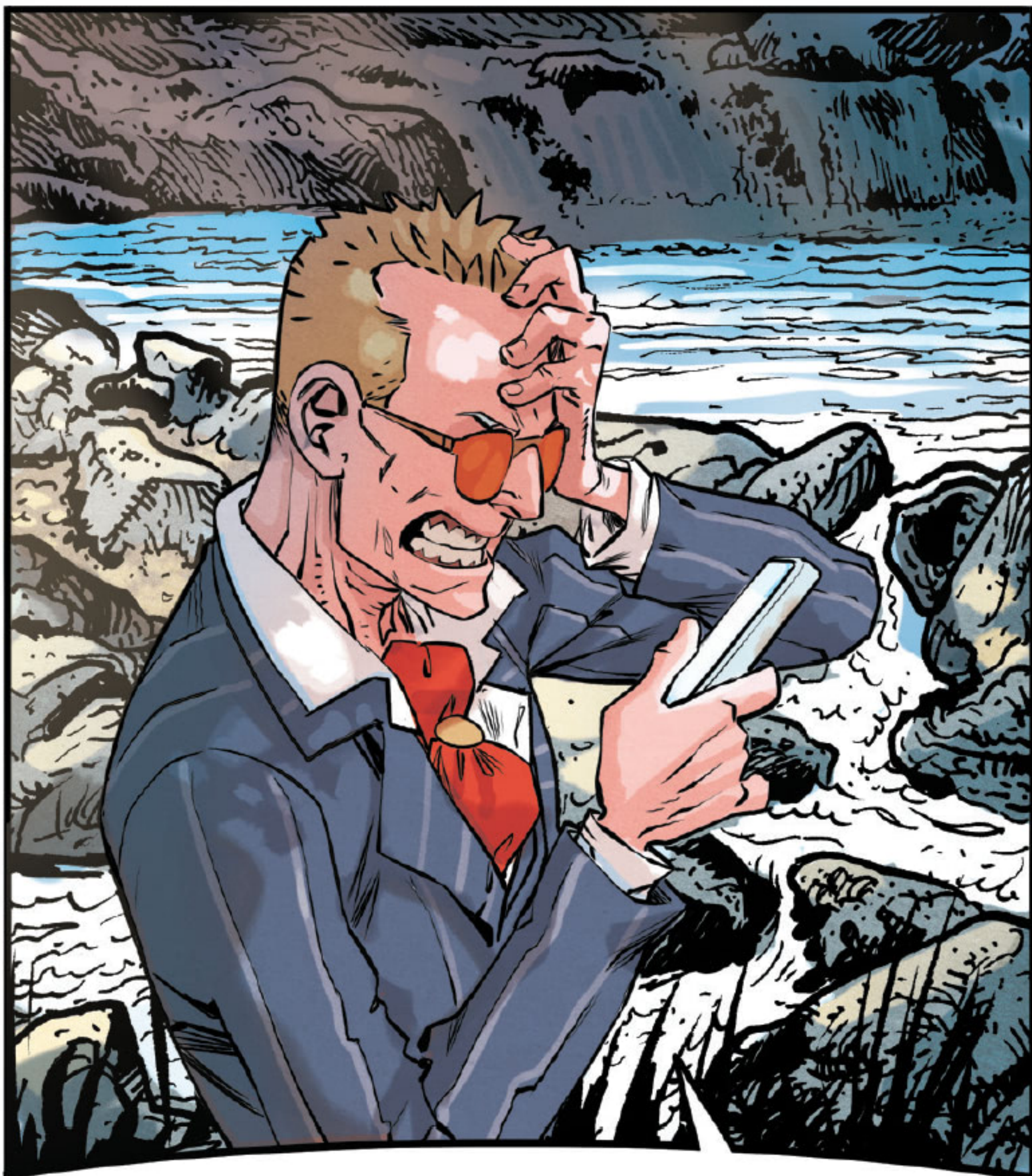
SIR, I FOUND MARGUERITE!



HOW IS SHE?



SAME AS TIM AND SERGE... LOOKS TO BE IN A COMA...



THIS IS BIZARRE... FIRST I REGAIN MY HUMAN APPEARANCE, AND NOW HALF THE KIDS ARE FOUND WITHOUT THEIR TOTEMS... OR WORSE...



ANY NEWS FROM ERIKA?

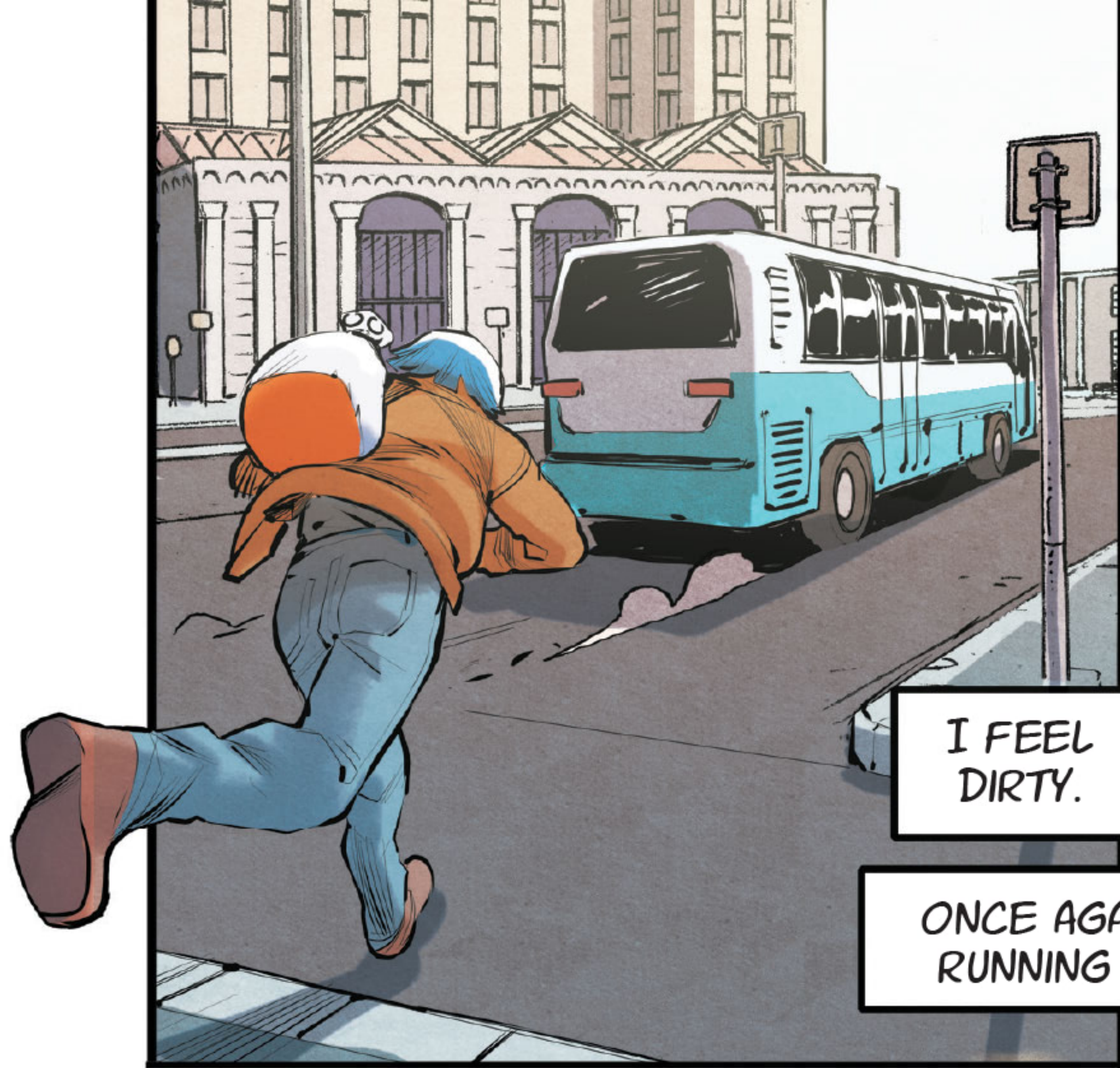
NO SIGN OF JAMAL OR PAULA.



IT'S LIKE THEY JUST VANISHED.

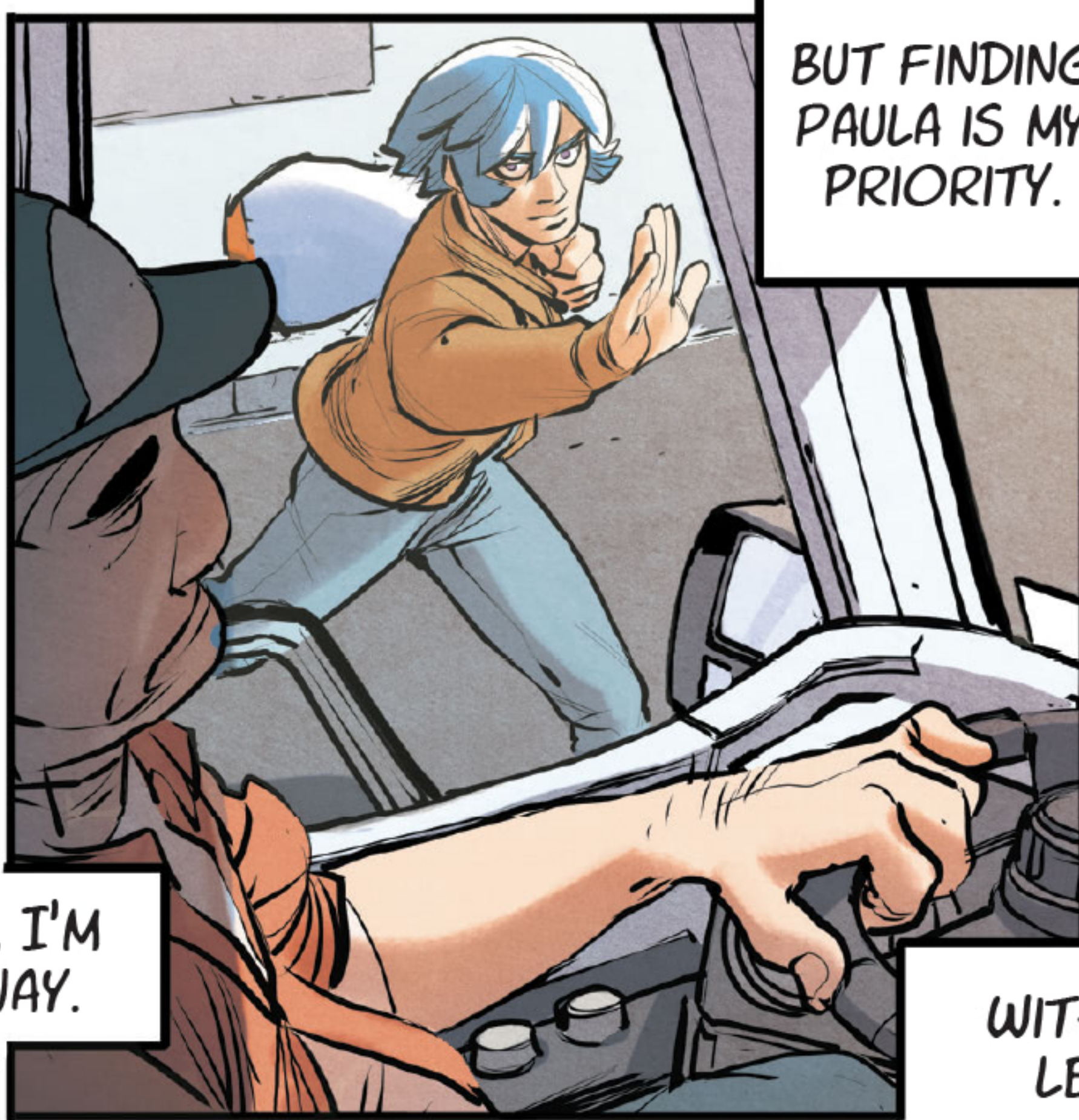


GREEEAT.



I FEEL DIRTY.

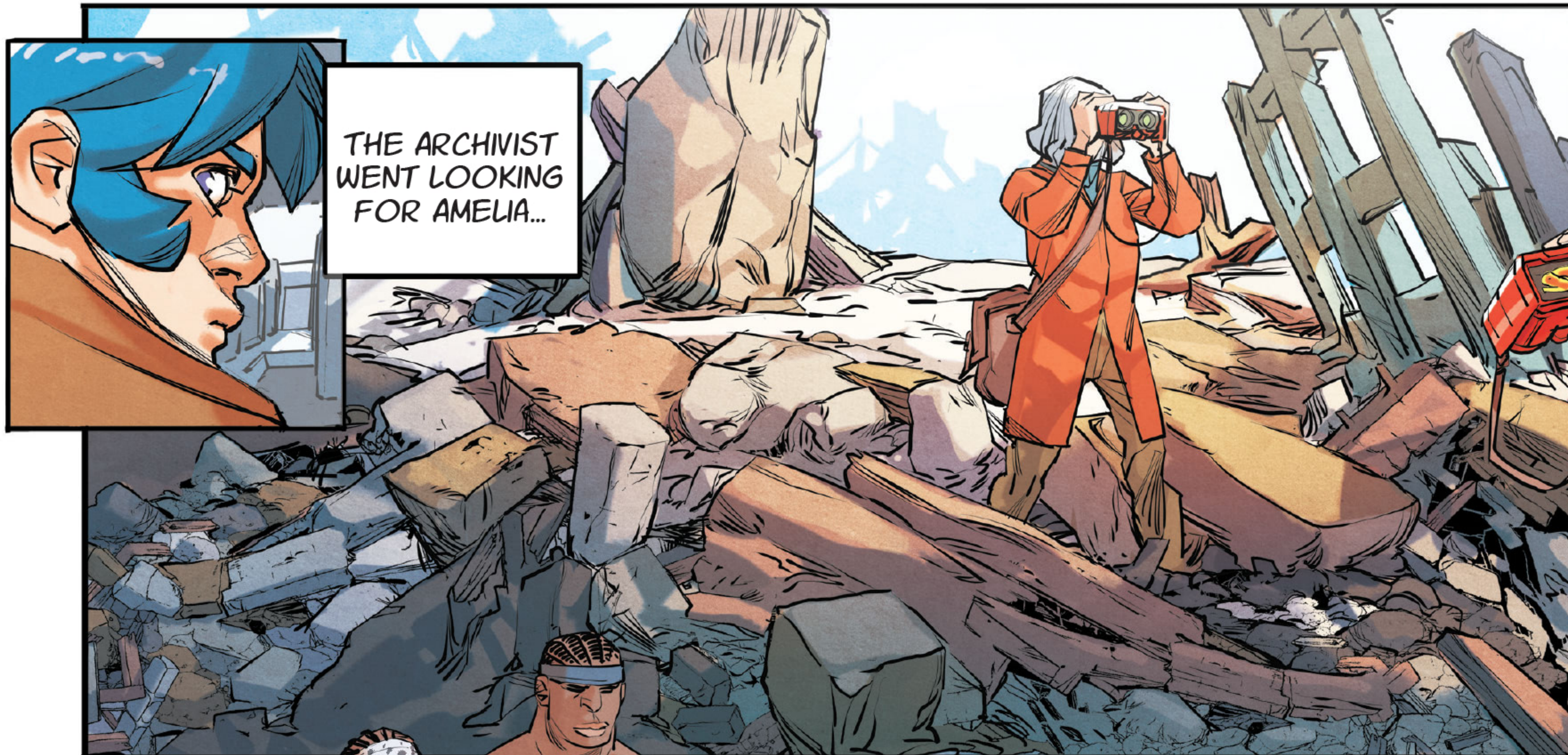
ONCE AGAIN, I'M RUNNING AWAY.



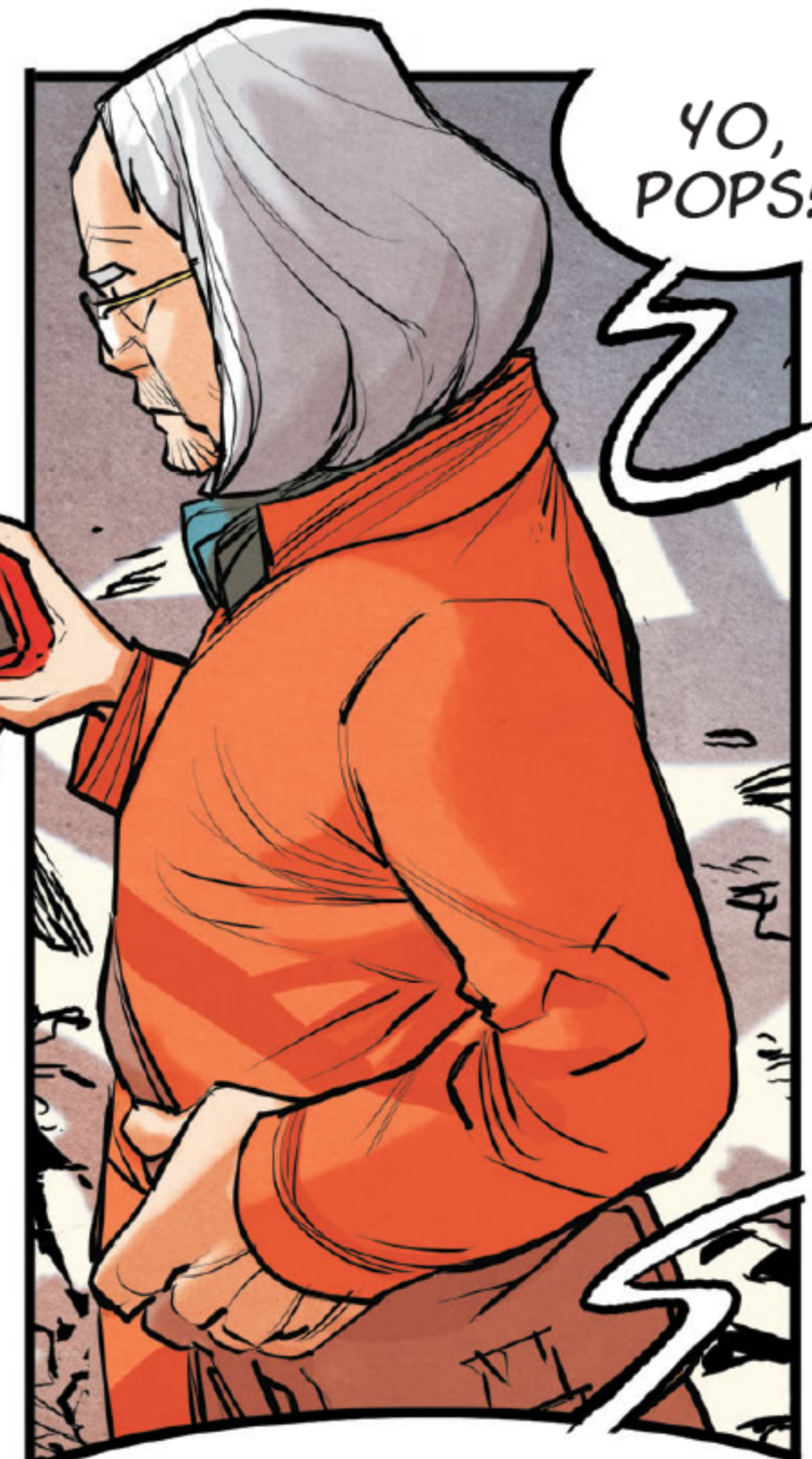
BUT FINDING PAULA IS MY PRIORITY.



WITH THE PSYCHIC MEMORIES I STILL HAVE LEFT, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND HER.



THE ARCHIVIST WENT LOOKING FOR AMELIA...



YO, POPS!

BET THAT THING'S WORTH A FORTUNE, HUH?



LEAVE ME ALONE...

DON'T BE A HERO, JUST LET ME HOLD IT...!



GIVE IT BACK. HE'S WITH ME.

BAH, I COULDN'T JUST RUN AWAY AGAIN...

END OF CYCLE THREE.

...BESIDES, WHO SAID YOU NEED SUPER POWERS TO BE A HERO?

